2 rights activists killed by vigilantes in Or. Mindoro

Story below, Col. 1

Palace not picking fight with Dante Ang

By Carlito Pablo

MALACAÑANG is not about to pick a fight with the man who's been raring to expose "mind-boggling shakedowns" allegedly perpetrated by a lawyer and his law firm with close personal and professional ties to the Macapagal-Arroyo family.

According to the Palace spokesperson

PALACE/ A20

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BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

'Don't kiss the bride!'

HERE COMES THE SARS, ALL DRESSED IN WHITE....

PUNE, India—An Indian bride was taken to a hospital straight from her wedding ceremony last Monday after she and some family members were confirmed to have been infected with SARS.

Doctors also quarantined the groom, 25

'DON'T/ A21

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Wednesday, April 23, 2003 ★★ 62 pages / 6 sections / vol. 18 / no. 134 P15 website: www.inq7.net

SARS-hit village isolated

No way out for Meralco: SC says ruling final

By Michael Lim Ubac and Ronnel W. Domingo

MANILA Electric Co. has no other option but to immediately repay the excess charges it imposed on its consumers, despite filing a motion last week asking the Supreme Court to rule on its third decision compelling the utility firm to return the excess collections.

Thus said Supreme Court spokesperson Ismael Khan, who declared yesterday that the high court ruling on the refund, estimated to be at least P28 billion, was final and executory.

"In the case of Meralco, the decision is supposed to be final. The very wording of the decision itself would suggest that any second motion for reconsideration is a prohibited pleading," said Khan, also the high tribunal's deputy administrator.

NO WAY/ A19

Erap wants Pimentel as witness

By Volt Contreras and Michael Lim Ubac

DEPOSED President Joseph Estrada's legal strategy for his plunder trial is beginning to take shape, and it starts by summoning a former Senate President.

Estrada wants Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr.—the 10th senator to vote for the opening of the second Jose Velarde envelope—to be a witness for the defense.

Estrada said Pimentel could testify that when the infamous envelope was finally opened on Feb. 14, 2001 by virtue of Senate Resolution No. 927, it yielded papers showing Estrada's businessman pal Jaime Dichaves as the

ERAP/ A20

INTIMACY in a time of SARS is problematical for a couple saying goodbye at a train station in China's capital, Beijing. Nearly half of the world's SARS cases have occurred in China where official statistics show that 97 people have died and more than 2,000 have been infected. REUTERS

11 more die in China, 5 in HK, 1 in KL

AN OBSCURE dusty village, Barangay Vacante in Alcala, Pangasinan (Pop: about 800), is suddenly the center of national attention following the death of nursing aide Adela Catalon who stayed there for several days before dying of probable SARS on April 14. VAL HANDUMON

BEIJING—Three Asian countries yesterday reported 17 more SARS deaths as medical experts on the Chinese mainland fanned out to the vast countryside to contain the epidemic and schoolchildren in Hong Kong went back to class wearing surgical masks after a three-week shutdown.

China—epicenter of the flu-like virus that has killed 235 people and infected 4,100 in at least 30 countries—reported 11 new fatalities and Hong Kong five. Malaysia announced its second death from Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome.

The WHO representative in China, Henk Bekedam, told Reuters that it would be "quite a challenge to contain SARS" in China. "I think we're going for a very big outbreak," Bekedam said.

According to China's health ministry, the death toll on the mainland has reached 97 while the total number of infections surged to 2,158—nearly a quarter of whom are health care workers. The number of suspected cas-

11 MORE/ A20

Second suspected SARS death reported

By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau
and Armand N. Nocum
in Manila

DAGUPAN CITY—Health officials have formed a task force to isolate three zones in Alcala, Pangasinan, where nursing aide Adela Catalon stayed for several days before succumbing to probable SARS on April 14.

Catalon's 74-year-old father Mauricio died yesterday of colon cancer but is considered a suspected SARS case because he developed fever and had to be hospitalized after contact with his daughter, Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit said.

Mauricio's ailment, diagnosed only last month, was the reason his 46-year-old daughter flew home from Canada on April 5 and made trips to medical clinics in Pangasinan, Baguio, Tarlac and Metro Manila in search of a doctor to treat him.

A sample of Mauricio's blood will be sent to a Japanese laboratory, which is already examining blood from his daughter and a 64-year-old German man who fell ill with probable SARS but recovered, Dayrit said. The tests will confirm whether the three were infected with the virus.

Pangasinan health officer Nemesia Mejia said Task Force Star was formed to monitor the movements of residents of the

SARS-HIT/ A21

RITM to be reserved for SARS cases

THE ENTIRE Research Institute for Tropical Medicine (RITM) in Alabang will soon be reserved for patients suspected of having Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), RITM director Remigio Olveda said yesterday.

The RITM, which, along with the San Lazaro Hospital in Manila, was recently declared a "reference center for SARS patients," is now being readied to cater mainly to SARS cases.

"We are reserving 35 beds for SARS patients in a worst-case scenario ... when local transmission [of the disease] shall have set in," Olveda said yesterday.

The institute still admits pa-

RITM/ A21

Explosions mar GMA visit to Pikit; iron hand policy stays

DAVAO CITY—Velvet glove and iron hand. In the past two days in Mindanao, the President comforted victims of the Buliok fighting while continuing to talk tough against "lawless elements."

Yesterday afternoon, President Macapagal-Arroyo led thousands of displaced families back to their homes in Pikit, North Cotabato, from which they had fled when intense fighting erupted between the Armed Forces and MILF rebels last February.

Presidential Assistant for Mindanao Jesus Dureza said Ms Macapagal also conducted a dialogue with residents of barangays Bago Inged, Rajah Muda, Gli-gli and Inug-ug, to determine their needs.

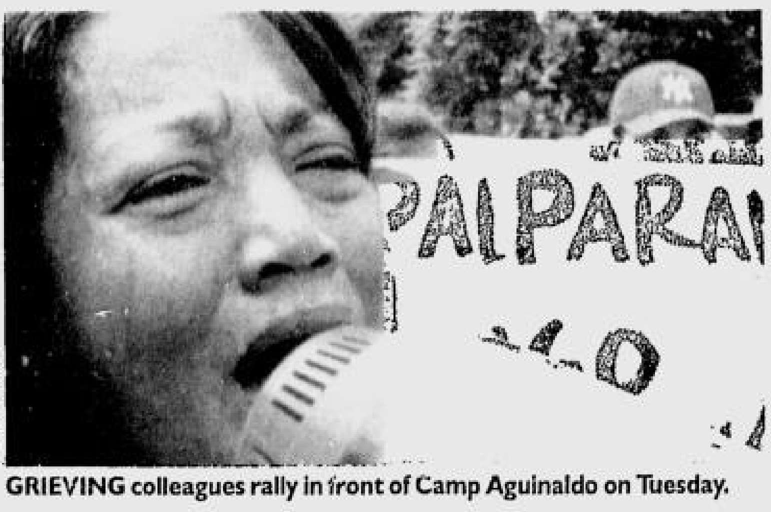
The previous night, however, the President turned down the appeal of Davao businessmen for her to lift General Order 3, which had placed Southern and Central Mindanao under a state of lawless violence.

The businessmen said the order was hurting the economy, but Ms Macapagal said there was a need for the military and the police to step up efforts "to prevent and suppress acts of terrorism and lawless violence" in the two regions.

Citing her "inherent constitutional right as President and Commander in Chief," Ms Macapagal read the April 3 order before key government officials and business leaders at the Marco Polo Hotel here.

EXPLOSIONS/ A19

2 rights activists killed in Oriental Mindoro; colonel blamed



JOAN BONDOC

GRIEVING colleagues rally in front of Camp Aguinaldo on Tuesday.

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Clarice Colting and Romulo Ponte
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

CALAPAN CITY—Two officials of a human rights group and a militant farmers' organization investigating the murders of farmers, community leaders and activists in Oriental Mindoro have themselves been murdered.

Their bodies were found yesterday in Bansud town a day after masked men claiming to be anticommunist vigilantes seized them in Naujan town.

The victims were identified as Eden Marcellana, secretary general of the Alyansa sa Pagusulong ng Karapatang Pantao in Southern Tagalog (Karapatan-ST), and Eddie Gumanoy, chair of the Kasapian ng mga Samahang Magbubukid sa Timog Katagalugan (Kasama-TK).

Residents found the bodies at about 7 a.m. in Barangay Alcadesma in a bamboo grove some 200 meters from the highway, according to a report from the Bansud police.

Also abducted were Francisco Saez and Melvin Jocson, provin-

2 RIGHTS/ A20

JOAN BONDOC

EDDIE GUMANOY

EDEN MARCELLANA

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The Batanes group of islands will experience stormy weather. The rest of extreme Northern Luzon will have rains and occasional gusty winds. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/04/23/03

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Partly Cloudy

Proponents push Cha-cha

IGNORING the criticisms, proponents for Charter change have gone ahead with the campaign, creating yesterday three "working committees" to draft the proposed amendments.

A statement released at the House of Representatives said leaders of the Coalition for Charter Change Now! met yesterday at the Club Filipino to form the committees that would also draft the "rules for the constituent assembly."

Western Samar Rep. Eduado Nachura, the chair of the House committee on constitutional amendments who participated in the meeting, said the committees will be working on political and economic reforms and the rules for the constituent assembly.

The draft proposals will be submitted to the Senate and the House "in case" the Senate concurs with a House-approved resolution to convene Congress into a constituent assembly to carry out the amendments. *Juliet Labog-Javellana*

₱1-B 'DIRTY MONEY'

SC extends freeze on suspicious funds

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE SUPREME Court yesterday ordered the freezing of some P1.08 billion in deposits of suspected Abu Sayyaf leaders and pseudo-investment firms in 138 banks all over the country.

The temporary restraining order effectively extended the separate freeze orders earlier issued by the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) against those suspected of laundering money.

The TRO, dated April 21, was released yesterday by the tribunal which is holding its summer session in Baguio City and is to take effect immediately.

The freeze orders cover all existing bank accounts of the ASG, Rosario Baladjay's MMG International and Multitel Corp., Tibayan Management Group, Genta Ogami's transactions and the bank accounts involved in the LandBank tax scam.

BALADJAY

OGAMI

It also covered 16 freeze orders earlier issued by the AMLC "and all other similar cases pending before all courts in the Philippines."

The high court was referring to 29 similar petitions for extension of effectivity of about 100 other freeze orders pending before the Court of Appeals. The earlier freeze orders expired yesterday.

With the SC order, the estimated P1.08 billion in frozen bank accounts cannot be withdrawn by their owners for an indefinite period.

The Office of the Solicitor General sought the TRO on April 3, 2003 after the CA, which has the authority to issue the freeze order under the new Anti-Money Laundering Law (RA 9194), failed to act on the case.

The OSG contended that unless continuously frozen, the bank accounts "will certainly be placed beyond the reach of the law enforcement authorities."

"If the existing orders are not extended on or before April 22, they will automatically be lifted by operation of law," Solicitor General Alfredo Benipayo said.

This would have rendered ineffectual government efforts to go after big-time money launderers.

Benipayo warned that if the funds and bank deposits under investigation by the AMLC were to disappear, the government would have a hard time prosecuting suspected money launderers.

Before the OSG elevated the matter to the SC, Benipayo had asked the CA to determine probable cause that the frozen accounts were "dirty money."

This is a requirement under the amended law before any suspicious account can be frozen.

The law was amended on March 7 after the Financial Action Task Force international anti-money laundering watchdog threatened to impose financial sanctions on the Philippines if it failed to come up with a stronger law by March 15.

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It's still go for absentee vote–Comelec

AFTER ranting about the impossibility of absentee voting, given a limited budget, the Commission on Elections finally bent over for lawmakers and resumed preparations for the implementation of the law.

Comelec chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. said the overseas polls would go on as mandated by the Absentee Voting Act despite a budget of only P400 million this year.

The Comelec earlier called off the scheduled May 5 overseas registration and reset it to June 5, citing lack of time and funds.

Abalos made the turnaround after a meeting on Monday night with Senators Franklin Drilon, Manuel Villar and Edgardo Angara, Foreign Affairs Secretary Blas Ople, and Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin.

The Comelec chief said Boncodin had allowed the poll body to acquire expenses based on loans that the government would guarantee, but only if the cost of implementation—including regional training, purchase of equipment and other registration paraphernalia—exceeded P400 million.

"This seems to be the only way for us to proceed because the lawmakers cannot insert more funds into the GAA," Abalos said.

The President is set to sign the General Appropriations Act (GAA) today.

Abalos said the Comelec would probably conduct counting and canvassing of votes manually in countries where there are few Filipino voters. Counting machines would be installed only wherever there is a huge number of registrants.

The Comelec initially sought at least P800 million this year to prepare for the overseas polls.

Last month Abalos recommended the postponement, and later the selective application, of the absentee voting law, following Congress' allocation of just P400 million in the GAA for the Comelec and Department of Foreign Affairs.

Aquino; 77

LUCENA Gallardo-Aquino, widow of the late mayor Joaquin Aquino, of Prosperidad, Agusan del Sur died yesterday at Ospital ng Makati after a lingering illness. She was 77.

Aquino, who hailed from Tandag, Surigao del Sur, was the mother-in-law of Ike Señeres, former director of National Computer Center.

Mrs. Aquino is survived by her sons Gerry Joaquin Jr. and Julius and daughters Lenny Penson and Lorina Aquino-Señeres.

Her body now lies in state at Arlington Memorial in Quezon City. Interment will be announced later.

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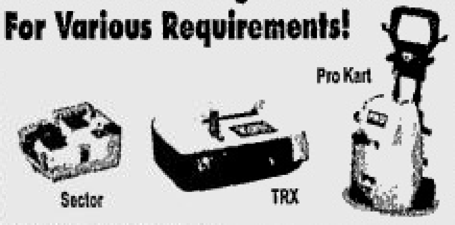

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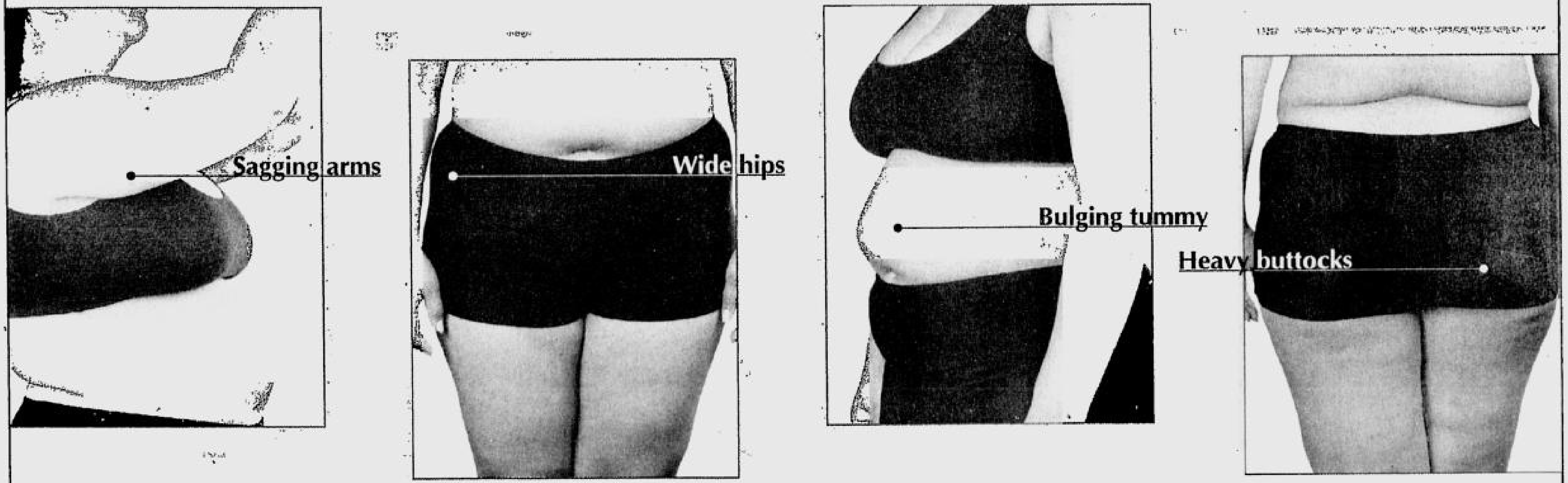

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Solon hits 'addictive' Smart ads

By Juliet Labog-Javellana and Abigail L. Ho

A CONGRESSMAN has criticized telecom giant Smart Communications Inc. for its recent print ad that he claimed glorified drug addiction.

Palawan Rep. Abraham Mitra said Smart's Holy Week ad for its "Addict Mobile" phone was sprinkled with the words "addict," "high" and other terms associated with drug abuse.

Mitra said there's no mistaking Smart was using the "lingo of the underground drug culture" to sell its latest mobile phone, which it called a "fix" that could cure the "craving" of texting addicts for "mind-blowing deals."

"Once you're high, there's no coming down," the ad said.

"The ad treats phone use and drug use as both hip. It equates the satisfaction one gets from regular drug use with the satisfaction one could get from using their phone," Mitra said.

But Smart public affairs head Ramon Isberto countered that the ad explicitly stated that the "addictions" referred to were not at all drug-related.

"We're not talking about drug addiction. We're talking about basketball, music, food, not drugs. The ads were very clear and explicit (about that). I think the public will see it that way," he said.

The Smart print ad for its Amazing Phone featured several celebrities stating their "addictions" underneath their head shots.

PBA anchorman Paolo Trillo, for example, admitted to being a "music addict," while model Derek Ramsay said he was a "car addict."

Isberto said the ad was designed that way because Smart will soon be coming out with services for its "Addict Mobile" phone that could be customized to fit a subscriber's "addictions."

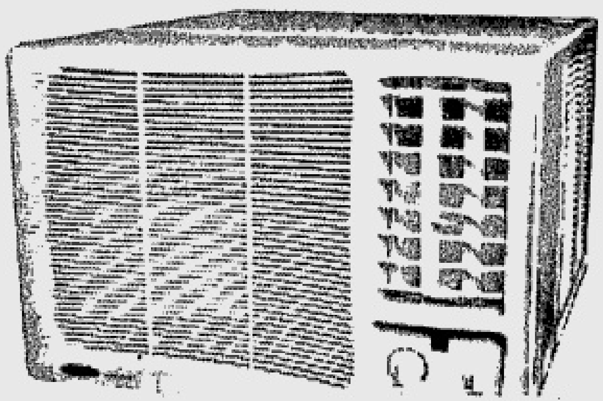
Mitra said he was not advocating censorship but was concerned about the propriety of the ad.

MITRA

"Others may find the ad cute but they do not realize that the message it conveys to the impressionable youth is that drug addiction is okay," Mitra said.

"It (Smart) has sold nine million phones and addicted a nation to texting in the process, without having had to ride on the issue of drugs," he said.

He said the company should pull out the offensive ad.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Rebels attack Globe cell site

CASTILLA, Sorsogon—Some 30 heavily armed men who said they were New People's Army members burned a relay tower belonging to Globe Communications in Sitio Binanderahan, Barangay Bagong Sirang here on Saturday.

The tower's lone security guard, Crisanto Hapita, 23, told police the suspects arrived at around 1 p.m. and told him to come out of the guardhouse. He said they promised not to harm him if he cooperated with them.

They then burned the station's equipment room, bunk house and temporary canteen, Hapita said.

He said the suspects told him that Globe paid taxes to the government but would not pay revolutionary taxes to them.

Insp. Jerry Ladia, Castilla police chief, said the fire damaged radio equipment, a rectifier, two air-conditioners, a fuel tank and a generator.

He said the suspects took with them Hapita's .38-cal. revolver and personal belongings.

Ladia said the rebels fired their guns as they withdrew toward Barangay Bonga here and police recovered 20 M-16 and 12 M-14 rifle shells at the scene. *Emir Gamis, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Sinos, Koreans lead deportees

By Blanche S. Rivera

CHINESE and Koreans illegally staying in the country led the batch of 244 foreigners deported by the Bureau of Immigration during the first quarter of the year.

A BI report showed that the BI had arrested 282 illegal aliens from January to March, 244 of whom have been deported.

Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo said in a statement that the first quarter arrests this year were almost half the total number of arrests last year while those expelled nearly equaled the 259 total deportees last year.

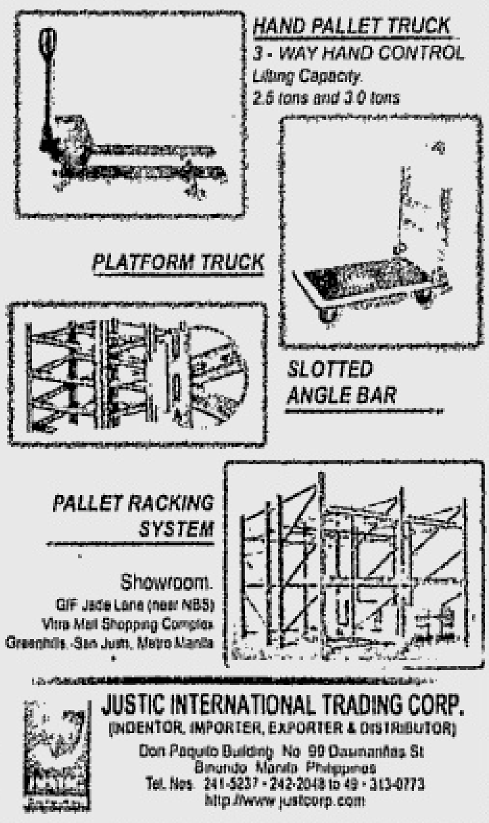
Domingo said that this was due to the crackdown on illegal foreign vendors who are all over Metro Manila.

The drive, which was launched in January, netted 108 Chinese selling retail goods in various shopping malls.

Other deportees included 40 Koreans, nine Indians, nine Japanese, and eight Americans, seven of whom were fugitives.

There were also deportees from different countries in Asia, North and South America, and Europe.

All the deportees, especially those expelled for serious crimes, were banned from reentering the country.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Senate votes higher pay for judges

By Michael Lim Ubac

HERE'S good news for members of the judiciary—the Senate passed on Monday a bill exempting them from the Salary Standardization Law.

This means members of the judicial branch of government from Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. on down through the ranks would receive sharp increases in their salaries and allowances, once the bill is enacted into law.

Supreme Court and other justice officials hailed yesterday the passage of Senate Bill No. 2018.

SC Court Administrator Presbitero Velasco said the bill would entice more lawyers to join the judiciary.

"It's a welcome development," said Deputy Court Administrator Ismael Khan,. SC spokesperson.

Khan said he had yet to read the bill, but "any improvement of compensation for judges will certainly redound to more applications from the private sector."

He said one reason for the high vacancy rate in the judiciary—44 percent in the first-level courts and over 20 percent in the regional trial courts throughout the country—was the low compensation.

The Senate unanimously approved SB 2018 on third reading. The bill would increase by 100 percent the basic pay of court officials.

All 17 senators present on Monday approved the bill, as well as Senate Bill No. 2526, which authorizes the Commission on Elections to automate the counting of votes in the 2004 elections.

The two bills are to be transmitted to the bicameral conference committee where they will be reconciled with the House of Representatives' versions of the bills.

Sen. Francis Pangilinan, principal author of SB 2018, said, "We expect to pass this bill in the bicam before June. The President has certified it as urgent as it is one of her key measures."

Korean war vets mark 52nd year of Battle of Yultong

FILIPINO veterans of the Korean War mark the 52nd anniversary today of the historic Battle of Yultong, which made heroes out of the Philippine Army's 10th Battalion Combat Team (BCT).

Veterans from the 10th, 20th, 19th, 14th and 2nd BCTs, which constituted the Philippine Expeditionary Force to Korea (Peftok), will gather at the Libingan ng mga Bayani's Korean War Pylon for the simple rites and the turnover of a commemorative exhibit.

Over 7,000 officers and men from the Philippine Army served under Peftok and won praise from their allies in the United Nations Command for their courage and fighting skills.

The Battle of Yultong in North Korea was fought by the 10th BCT under Col. Dionisio Ojeda, whose 900 officers and men successfully defended their positions against the Chinese People Volunteers' 12th Army, which consisted of 40,000 soldiers at full strength. The 10th BCT lost some 50 men, while Chinese casualties were estimated in the thousands.

Thus the 10th BCT came to be known as "The Fighting Filipinos."

Guests of honor at the anniversary rites are AFP Vice Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia and South Korean Ambassador Son Sang-Ha.

A collection of rare photographs recounting Peftok's role in the Korean war, the exhibit will be turned over to the Philippine Army by Brig. Gen. Bienvenido Castro (Ret), president of the Peftok Veterans Association, Inc. The collection will be housed at the Philippine Army museum.

During the Battle of Yultong and for most of its Korean tour of duty, the 10th BCT was attached to the United States 3rd Infantry Division (Rock of the Marne). This division fought in World Wars 1 and 2 in Europe and, more recently, was the key combat unit in "Operation Iraqi Freedom."

Maj. Gen. Robert "Shorty" Soule, 3rd Infantry commanding officer in the Korean War, said the 10th BCT was the best Allied unit in his division.

Led by the US, 21 member countries of the UN sent combat troops or provided humanitarian aid to South Korea. Communist North Korea and the People's Republic of China opposed the UN forces during the three-year conflict that claimed the lives of more than one million soldiers and over three million civilians.

LPG prices cut

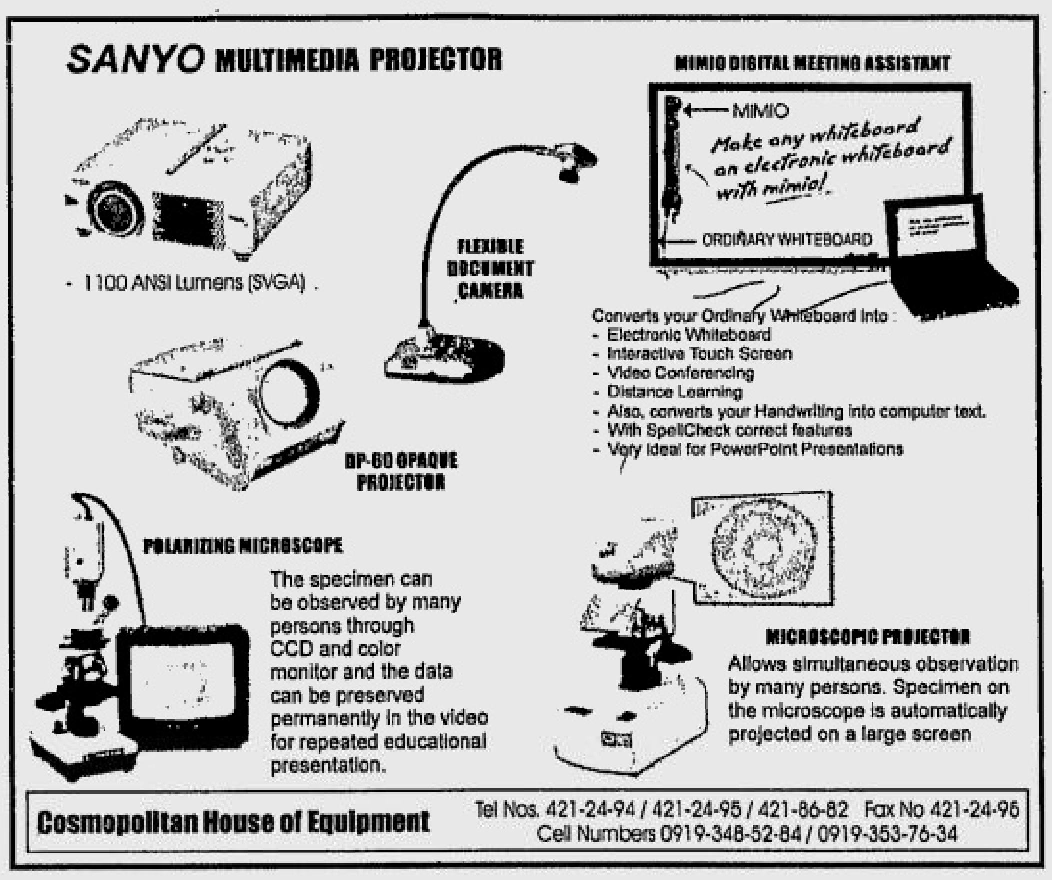
THREE oil companies—Caltex Phil., Petron and TotalFinaElf Phil.—yesterday announced they would be cutting the prices of their liquefied petroleum gas by P1 per kilogram starting at midnight last night.

Industry officials said the price reduction would mean that an 11-kg cylinder of Petron's Gasul would now cost between P294 and P304 while TotaGaz would cost about P280. Caltex did not give figures.

This is the second time in a month that LPG prices have decreased, which followed a series of price hikes starting in August 2002 totaling P6.95 per kg.

Petron public affairs manager Virginia Ruivivar said in a statement the cut in domestic prices reflected changes in the international market.

Ruivivar said international contract prices of LPG went down in April by as much as $55, from $372.50 to about $217.50 per metric ton.
Ronnel Domingo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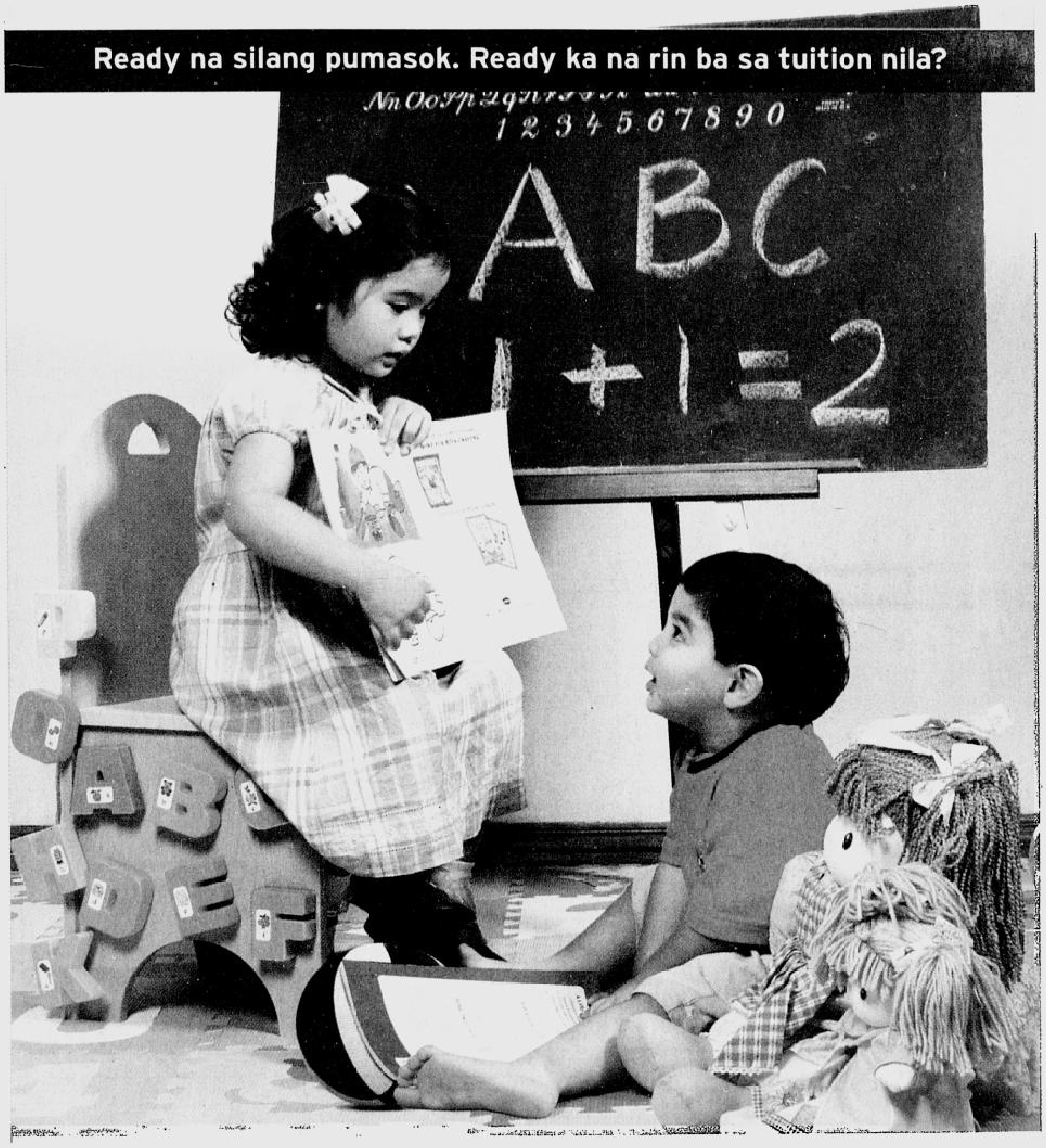
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Sulu won't be new US front vs terror—GMA

SULU will not be the "new battlefront" for the United States-led global war against terrorism, President Macapagal-Arroyo said yesterday.

US troops to be deployed in the Balikatan 03-1 joint military exercises in Sulu later this year will only be engaged in training their Philippine counterparts as well as carrying out civil projects, the President said in a statement.

"There is no sense in speculations that Sulu will be the new battlefront involving US troops," she said.

The US troops "will not land and shoot" in Sulu, said the President who stressed that the Americans are barred from participating in combat operations against the Abu Sayyaf by the military which had been given 90 days, from February, to crush the kidnap-for-ransom group.

"No such (American) soldiers will be offensively engaged at any time during the training exercise," Ms Macapagal stressed.

"They have come to share knowledge with our troops and civic projects with our communities," she said.

The President claimed that the Abu Sayyaf are "already on the run and our own troops are already winning the fight."

She also said the Balikatan 03-1 was "not a scenario being forced upon the people" of Sulu whose Muslim population is said to be deeply resentful of US soldiers because of atrocities by the US Army during the pacification campaign there at the turn of the 20th century.

"Military and local officials have been in close consultation for sometime now and have ironed out the issue with local residents," she said.

In Zamboanga City, Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Roy Kyamko said majority of the people of Sulu supported the conduct of the Balikatan 03-1 in the province.

Only a handful of residents, including two mayors, oppose the war exercise involving US troops, Kyamko said

"Out of 18 municipal mayors, only two are opposing, so majority supports Balikatan and majority is given more weight," he said.

The mayor of Jolo town, Suhod Tan, is among those opposing the exercises. He said the arrival of the Americans even if only for humanitarian purposes would spell trouble for the people of Jolo.

"We have had enough trouble. Look at what happened in 2000 when the AFP called for all-out offensives against the Abu Sayyaf? We are suffering from endless crises. Businesses have been affected. What if the Americans meet an accident? We are all tired of being in the stage of social services, we want to move on," Tan said in an interview.

The Concerned Citizens of Sulu, a group of lawyers, academics and religious, expressed their opposition to the deployment of US troops in a recent letter to the President.

They said said there were far more pressing issues for the people of Sulu than the presence of the Abu Sayyaf.

They and some local officials agreed that the bandit group was a recent problem while poverty has been hounding Joloanos for decades now. *Carlito Pablo and Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Solons split on RP role in post-war Iraq

LAWMAKERS are divided on the government's decision to send peacekeepers and humanitarian workers to help reconstruct and rehabilitate Iraq.

Negros Occidental Rep. Jose Apolinario Lozada, chair of the House committee on foreign relations, yesterday argued for the safety of the 500-member contingent—including 300 soldiers and policemen, military engineers, doctors, social workers, and diplomats—which is set to leave on May 15.

Lozada warned of a protracted guerilla warfare in the ravaged country, saying Filipinos and other foreign nationals whose governments belonged to the "coalition of the willing" could be prime targets of Iraqi extremist groups.

The solon recalled the case of overseas Filipino workers in Jordan who were reportedly antagonized by the locals because of the Philippines' support of the United States-led war.

Sen. Manuel Villar Jr., chair of the Senate committee on foreign relations, said the government's decision should be reviewed, if only because the Iraqis had not asked for help.

Villar cited media reports on the Iraqi's keenness to run their own country. Obviously, he said, they resented the Americans' "intrusion and meddling."

Besides, he said, the money that would be spent on the mission could be used elsewhere—for instance, to improve public school facilities. He chided the government for acting before it could identify a source of funds for the volunteers.

In a press conference yesterday, Foreign Secretary Blas Ople said Manila would finance the mission for the first month, after which the US would foot the bill. He said the mission would stay in Iraq for six months to one year. Definitely, he added, there would be no combat role for the Philippine forces.

Six other congressmen yesterday said no matter what they thought of the US invasion of Iraq, they were backing up the Philippine mission.

The six were House defense committee chair Prospero Pichay, housing committee chair Prospero Nograles, accounts committee chair Robert "Ace" Barbers, natural resources committee chair Eduardo Veloso, Western Samar Rep. Reynaldo Uy, and Bulacan Rep. Willie Villarama.

In a joint statement, the solons said: "What are allowances and expenses compared to the 100,000 jobs that Foreign Affairs Sec. Blas Ople expects to be given to Filipino laborers? Also remember that in the $75-billion war budget proposed by (US) President Bush, $133 million are allocated as foreign aid to the Philippines." *Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau, with a report from AFP*

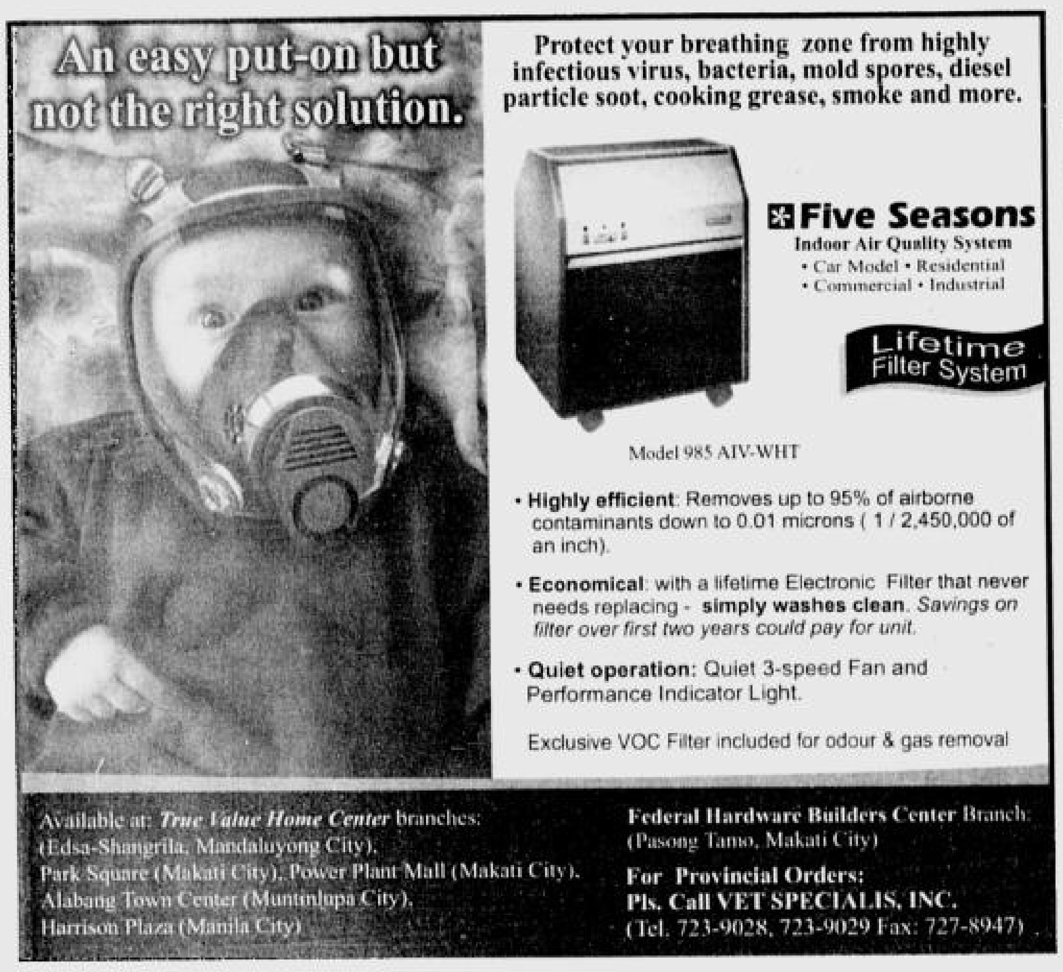
Jumping the gun on Iraq

WHILE other nations are still debating the administration of post-war Iraq, the Philippines has jumped the gun on the rest of the world with the appointment of an ambassador to the war-torn country, businessman Jose Ibazeta.

"It's one way of saying that as soon as the government (in Iraq) is formed, we would be extending recognition to it," said presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye yesterday.

"At the proper time, when there's an existing Iraqi government, then (Ibazeta's) appointment will be formalized," he added.

The United States has shown it intends to stay in Iraq for some time, with the appointment of retired general Jay Garner to oversee the ravaged nation's reconstruction.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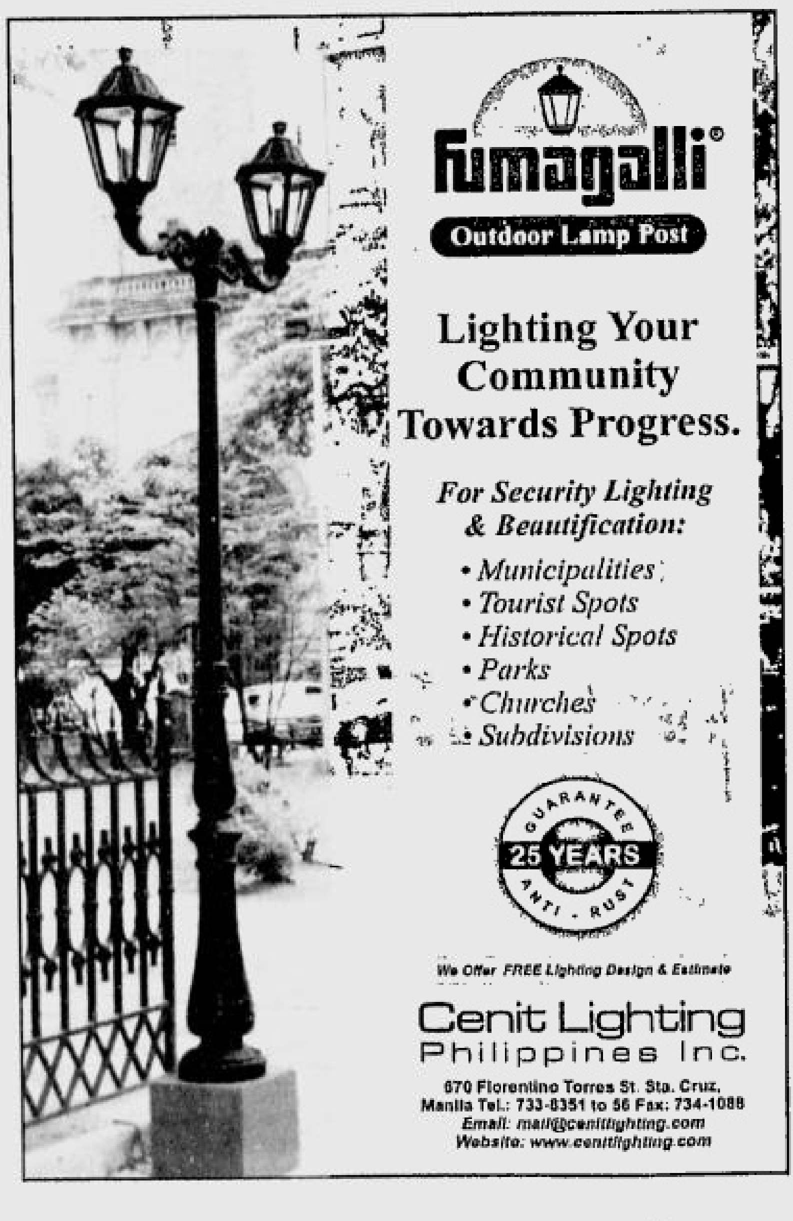
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Lawyers launch Roco bid for 2004

By TJ Burgonio

ROCO

THERE'S more than a year to go before the presidential election but it seems the campaign season has already started.

At least 200 lawyers yesterday threw their support behind another lawyer, former senator Raul Roco, endorsing him as their official candidate for president in the May 2004 elections.

At the launching of the movement, Lawyers for Roco/ Lawyers for Reform (L4R), the lawyers heaped praise on Roco even as they took a swipe at another presidential aspirant, opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson.

"Our man is a man of rectitude and leadership. His name has not been associated with graft and corruption. His name has never been linked with summary killings, and certainly not with corporate shenanigans," said L4R chair Arthur Lim, the former president of Integrated Bar of the Philippines, in a speech.

The obvious reference was to Lacson whose prosecution for his alleged involvement in the May 1995 rub-out of 11 members of the Kuratong Baleleng robbery gang was recently upheld by the Supreme Court.

Other prominent lawyers at the launch were Lakas Rep. Oscar Moreno; Roy Señeres, chair of the National Labor Relations Commission; and Jay Castro, incoming president of the Philippine Bar Association.

"I might face disciplinary measures (from my party for my presence here), but what the heck," Moreno said in his speech. "This is a very historic place, and I would like to add my humble name to this historic place."

In an interview with reporters later, Moreno vowed to support Roco even if the ruling Lakas-CMD were to choose some other candidate, but voiced the hope that "there would be a merging of positions" among the parties in the ruling coalition.

"What's important is that our country will be given a leadership that it so desperately needs. We need character, and Mr. Roco may not have the savvy and flair that could attract traditional politicians, but he certainly has the character, competence and the determination to lead the country to better heights," Moreno said.

Roco, wearing a blue barong, said he was overwhelmed by the support of the lawyers, some of whom had come from as far as Davao and Cebu.

"I'm very proud of my peers. The law profession is a peer profession. If you are respected by your peers, then you feel proud," he said.

Roco is a graduate of the San Beda College of Law and served as IBP president from 1983 to 1985.

"Remember that when you get three lawyers together, they have five opinions. Getting together more than 200 is a major achievement," he said.

Roco admitted that he was still seeking the endorsement of President Macapagal-Arroyo and other Lakas party officials.

"I hope to get the endorsement of everybody. You're always trying to secure the endorsement of your people. You talk to the taxi driver, you talk to the waiter, you talk to the barangay captain, you talk to the minister, you talk to the priest and you talk to the President," he said.

Asked to assess his chances of getting the Lakas party endorsement, Roco said: "I'm still wooing them."

He said it was people, not money, that would spell victory for him.

"It's the people who vote, it's not money. The people with organizations and with plenty of money have lost in the last three elections," he said.

Dental congress starts tomorrow

THE WEEK-LONG 25th Asia-Pacific Dental Congress opens tomorrow at the Philippine International Convention Center.

The regional congress is also being held jointly with the 95th annual convention and scientific session of the Philippine Dental Association (PDA), organizer of both events, which has drawn more than 3,000 foreign a local delegates.

Dr. Diampo J. Lim, general chair of the 25th Asia-Pacific Dental Congress, said the event took nearly years to prepare and organize from the time the PDA submitted and won its bid to host the regional congress.

Also scheduled tomorrow is the 37th annual convocation and banquet of the Philippine Section of the International College of Dentists at the Discovery Suites, Ortigas Center in Pasig City.

With the theme "Quality Dentistry and Modern Technology," the regional congress has put together a range of activities and programs which include scientific programs and lectures by prominent regional dental practitioners who will share their expertise and experiences to further continue education with delegates.

To allow PDA members to attend the international convention and its 95th annual meeting and election of officers, the ASPAC Congress organizing committee and PDA board had advanced and folded its scheduled meeting in May to the convention schedule with the approval of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

In the convocation of the Philippine Section of the International College of Dentists, outgoing president Dr. Luis Orosa will turn over the section's leadership to the incoming president, Dr. Antonio A. Baldemor.

Other incoming officers are Ermelinda Galang, president-elect for 2004-2005; Eliza Puzon, treasurer; Elizabeth Carrasco, secretary; Pasencia Miravite, treasurer; and Leonor Lago, Ma. Fatima Dizon and Luis Orosa, board members.

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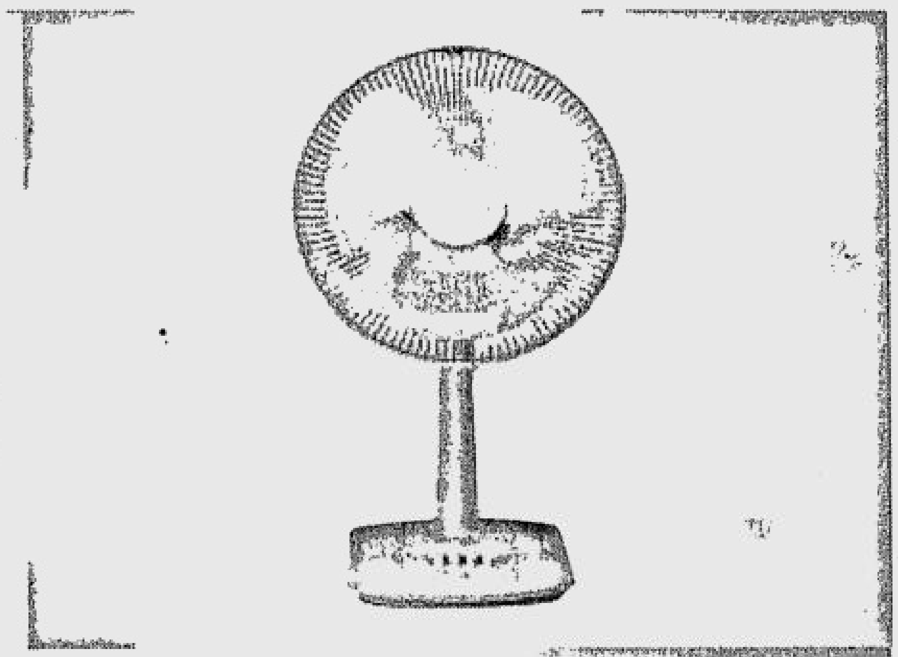

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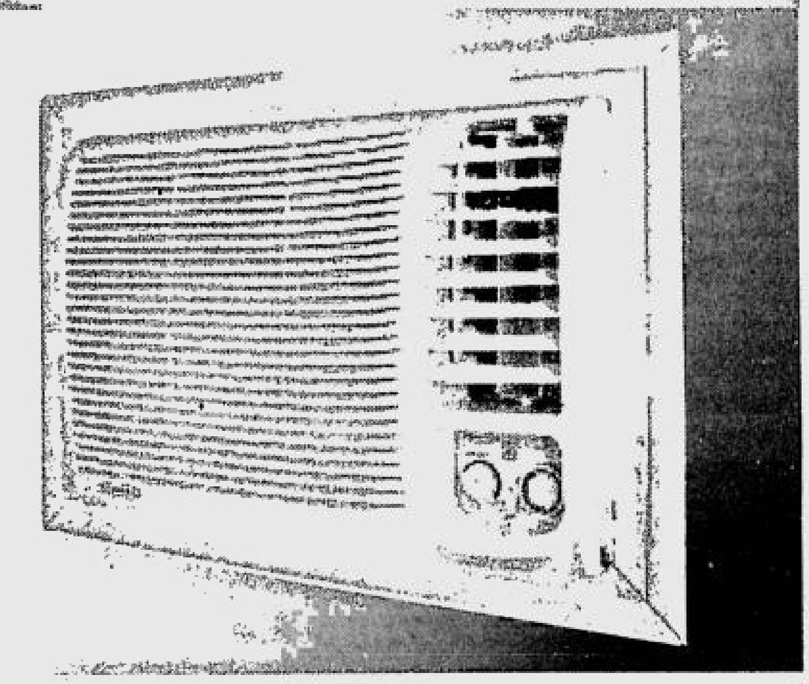

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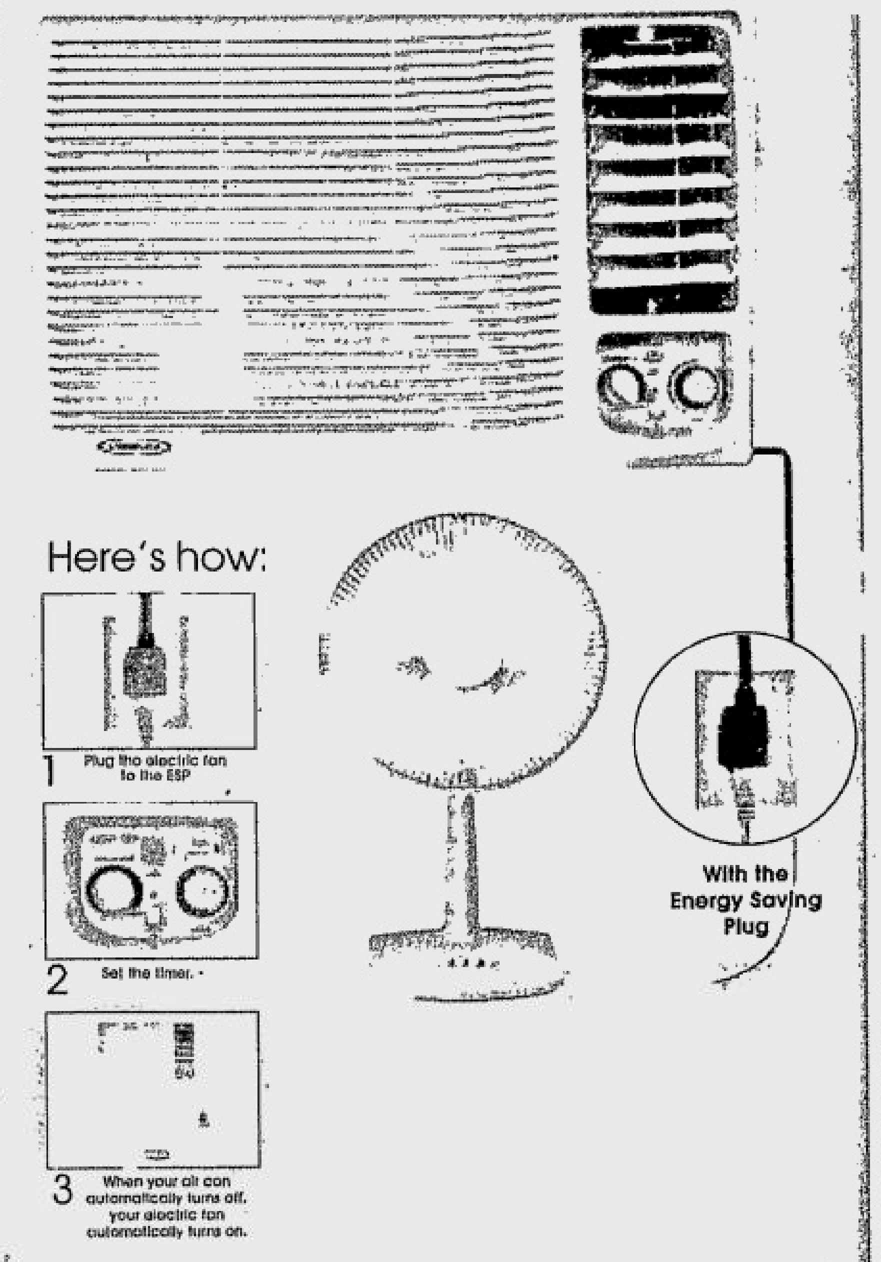
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OPINION

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'Midnight Madness'

Editorial

IT LOOKS like it's going to be the "Midnight Madness" sale of the Macapagal administration. Seven pieces of government-owned property are being sold to raise funds to reduce the budget deficit. Most of the assets that will be put up for auction are prime real estate in New York, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Chicago and Houston.

A parallel effort is reportedly being undertaken by the Privatization Council for government property in Japan. The sale of two pieces of government property in Tokyo and two others in Kobe is also being proposed. Finance Undersecretary Eric Recto said, however, that the outright sale of the four government assets in Japan was "out of the question." He recalled that the Supreme Court in 1990 ruled that the government had no right to dispose of the Roponggi property which was part of the public domain.

Has it come to this? Is the government so pressed for funds that it has to sell prime real estate in the United States and Japan whose value can be expected to increase over time? Can't the government find other ways to partly cover the budget deficit?

Among the assets to be sold is the Philippine Townhouse, a six-story building on East 66th Street in New York. A US firm has put its current fair market value at $17.5 million. Another is the Philippine Center on New York City's Fifth Avenue which has an estimated fair market value of between $22.7 million and $25 million. A third is the old chancery building at 1617 Massachusetts Avenue in Washington, D.C., said to be worth $2.98 million.

The others are: a 4,350-square-foot property in Houston, Texas, with an assessed value of $388,000; the Philippine Center buildings at 445-447 Sutter St. in San Francisco, with a fair market value of $13 million; a house at 945 Timber Hill Road in Highland Park, an hour's drive from Chicago, valued at $450,000; and a 4,800-square-foot lot at 620 Terry Ave. in Seattle with an assessed value of $240,000.

Why the hurry to sell these pieces of choice real estate located in prime areas of five major US cities? If they were maintained well, they could bring greater value for the government over the years.

It has been said that some of these assets are in a state of disrepair and it would cost the government a lot to repair and maintain them. But surely a way could be found to raise money for the government and at the same time have something for the repair and maintenance of these assets.

Recto, who oversees the disposition of government assets in the United States and Japan, has himself provided the answer. He said the property could be leased, be developed through a joint venture or be the sites of build-operate-transfer projects. Through these schemes the assets would remain the property of the Philippine government and at the same time earn money for it.

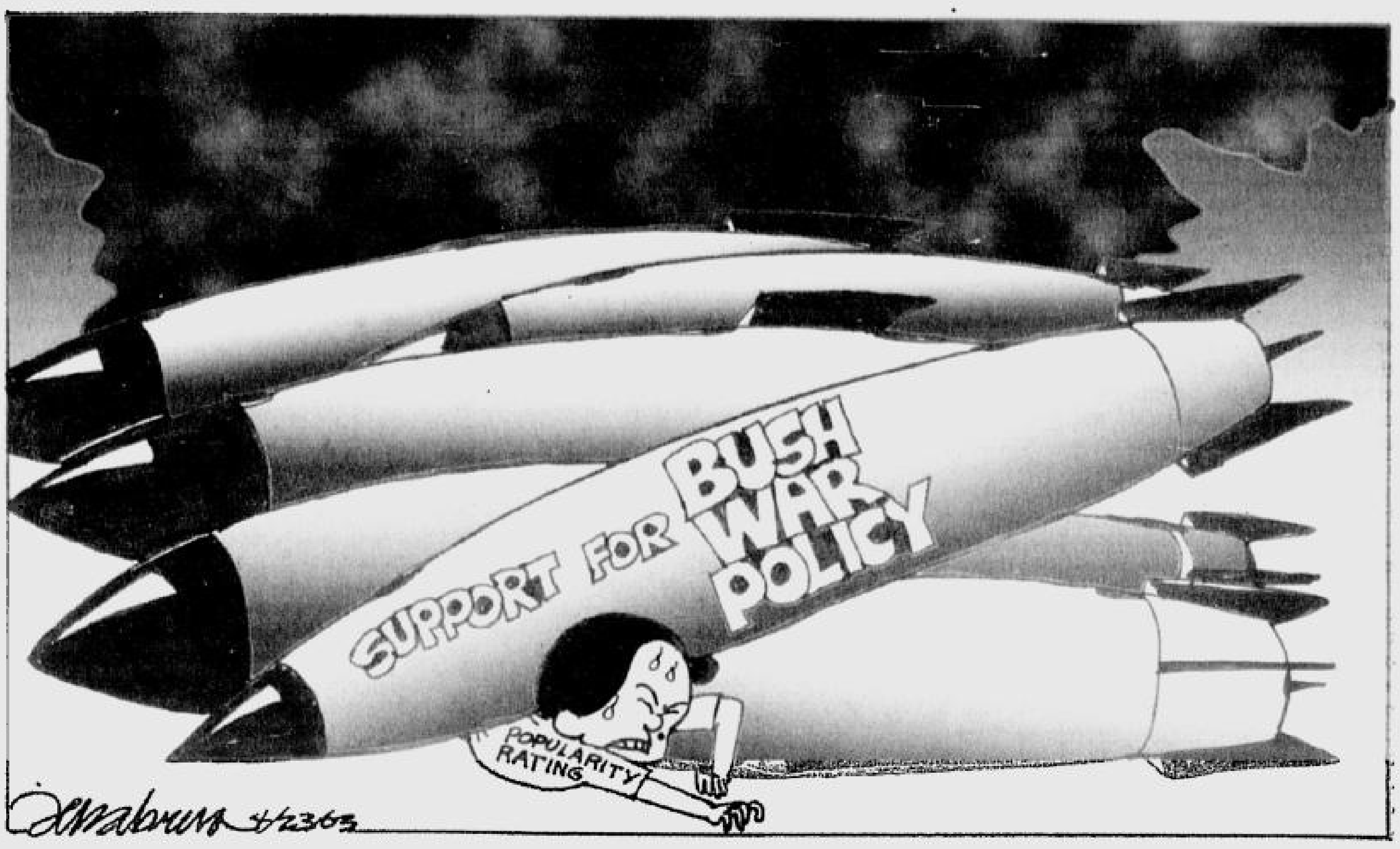
There is suspicion that this "Midnight Madness" sale is being conducted to raise funds for some people. Commissions are going to be paid when the pieces of property are sold. And when less pricey pieces of real estate are bought to replace them, again commissions are going to be paid to some people. We hope these suspicions are not true.

The assets in the United States should not be sold because most of them have become part of the national heritage. They have not just sentimental but historical value. For instance, the old chancery building on Massachusetts Avenue in Washington, D.C. has been witness to many developments in Philippine-American relations for more than four decades.

Who is the Filipino who has gone to New York and has not dropped in at the Philippine Center on posh Fifth Avenue? Or who has walked on the streets of San Francisco and not visited the Philippine Center on Sutter Street? These are old, familiar buildings to Filipino expatriates and tourists abroad.

Selling these assets is like disposing of highly prized family heirlooms. "*Nakakahiya* (It's a shame)," someone said. It's a sign of desperation, a sign that the government is scraping the bottom of the barrel to raise funds to reduce the deficit. Or is it just that?

No, these pieces of property should not be sold; other ways have to be explored to raise the needed funds. And aside from the modes presented by Recto, why doesn't the government try some tested ways, such as intensifying tax collection and adopting an austerity program?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Vote first, qualify later

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

YOU are familiar with the "buy now, pay later" and the "fly now, pay later" plans. Now we have the "vote now, qualify later" plan which our Congress has included in the Absentee Voting Law.

In one of the provisions of that law, a Filipino immigrant or permanent resident of another country can vote in Philippine elections by merely executing an affidavit promising to resume residency in the Philippines within three years after voting. This is supposed to cure his disqualification from voting under Section 1, Article V of the Constitution which provides that a voter should "have resided in the Philippines for at least one year and in the place where he proposes to vote for at least six months immediately preceding the elections."

In other words, the Filipino residing in another country will be allowed to vote first before he is qualified. He qualifies himself by returning to the Philippines and taking residency here within three years after approval of his application for registration. Is this constitutional or not?

It is not, argued three election lawyers in a memorandum filed with the Supreme Court to support their petition assailing certain provisions of the Absentee Voting Law.

"The affidavit promising to resume residency in the Philippines within three years is a clear admission that the potential absentee voter is not a resident of the Philippines, hence he does not possess the qualification of a voter as required under the said provision of the Constitution," argued lawyers Romulo B. Makalintal, Pete Q. Quadra and Sixto S. Brillantes Jr.

Congress was authorized by the Constitution to pass a law to provide a system for absentee voting by "**qualified** Filipinos abroad." Under the Absentee Voting Law that it passed however, "What Congress did was to provide a system to allow the apparently disqualified Filipino immigrants or permanent residents of another country to vote, thereby violating or exceeding the authority granted to it by the Constitution," said Macalintal, Quadra and Brillantes. In other words, what Congress did was to pass a law providing a system for absentee voting by **disqualified** Filipinos abroad.

Citing several cases already decided by the Supreme Court, the three lawyers said that when a Filipino acquires "immigrant or permanent resident status in another country, he is deemed to have abandoned his domicile and residence in the Philippines. If he wants to reacquire his Philippine residency, he has to reacquire it for the length of time prescribed by the law and, for such purpose, he needs not only intention to do so, but his personal presence in the said place. Hence a mere affidavit promising to return within three years will certainly not result to reacquisition of one's residence."

If the residency of these immigrants or permanent residents of another country shall be restored or recognized by the mere execution of said affidavit, then the Supreme Court "will be rewriting and abandoning decisional precedents on the meaning and interpretation of legal residence for voting and election purposes."

What the Constitution requires is that a voter must be qualified on the day of the election and not at some future time. It cannot be a "vote now, qualify later" proposition, the three lawyers said.

"What will happen to their votes," they asked, "if these immigrant or permanent residents are allowed to vote but do not return to the Philippines within three years as promised in their affidavits? Will they be invalidated? And, may I add, what will happen to the candidates for whom they voted and who have already been proclaimed winners and are already serving their terms of office? If the votes are invalidated and they end up with less than the required votes to win, will they be removed from their positions?"

For example, "if 100,000 of these immigrants or permanent residents voted and only 5,000 returned as they promised, what would happen to the votes of the 95,000 who did not return? If the difference between the winning and losing candidates for president or the number 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14 senators was only 25,000, the 95,000 votes of those who did not fulfill their promise to return would be very material as they could make or unmake the winner for the said positions."

And if these immigrants and permanent residents are allowed to vote, they would also be qualified to run for elective positions in Philippine elections considering that they have already acquired the residency qualification. "That would invite a grotesque political situation where our President, Vice President, senators and/or party-list representatives are permanent residents of other countries," the three lawyers said.

They added that the "assailed provisions of the AVL will also violate the equal protection clause of the Constitution since these immigrants or permanent residents will only execute the said affidavit promising to resume residency in the Philippines within three years. However, this privilege is not extended to Filipinos actually residing in the Philippines but disqualified from voting for lack of the required period of residency as required by law.

On the argument that these immigrants or permanent residents were only forced by economic reasons to reside in another country, the three lawyers cited the Supreme Court decision in Caasi vs Court of Appeals.

"Unlike the great majority of our citizens who cast their lot with our country without mental reservations or purpose of evasion," the tribunal said, "these resident aliens of a foreign country are incapable of such entire devotion to the interest and welfare of their homeland for with one eye on their public duties here, they must keep another eye on their public duties under the laws of the foreign country of their choice in order to preserve their status as permanent residents thereof."

Means and ends

There's the Rub

Conrado de Quiros

SHORTLY before war erupted in Iraq last month, many newspapers and TV stations carried editorials that lamented the plight of graduates. It was graduation time then for most schools, though others like UP were just about to have theirs this month.

Much of it was the usual thing we hear every graduation time. Well may the graduates strut and fret their hour upon the stage for tomorrow they have more than a hangover to wake up to. They have the specter of joblessness to face up to. Most of the editorials cited the extent of joblessness today, made worse over the years by the advent of truly bad times.

The expressions of anxiety are not unreasonable, and I suspect many of the parents of the graduates themselves harbor them. Particularly the not so well-off, even if they do not always say it openly. Would the sacrifices have been worth it? Would the sale of the carabao, the small piece of lot, the family heirloom have been worth it? Would the scrimping and saving and foregoing of amenities have been worth it? It is not an easy thought to have, as I know very well, having come from worse circumstances, and knowing friends who continue to be trapped in them.

It is not unreasonable, but I wonder also from another perspective if it is not a narrow-minded view of things. For what it is saying basically is that the purpose of education is to enable people to find jobs. If they are not able to do so, through lack of talent or opportunity, *sayang* the education. It will have gone for naught.

The only comparable idea I've heard in recent months, also seemingly commonsensical, is that we should emphasize English more than any other language in this country because English is our ticket to finding jobs, preferably in big companies or abroad, and luring in foreign investors. Well, maybe English should be emphasized in this country, or restored as the medium of instruction—I leave others to debate the point—but I don't see why that should be so simply because it enables us to find work abroad and lure in investors and tourists. The purpose of language is to communicate, not find work. The purpose of language is to enable the government to talk to its people and us to talk to each other, not lure in investors or tourists.

It's the same thing with education. Of course education gives an edge in finding work, but that is not its real purpose. The real purpose of education is to educate. The real purpose of education is to help make a human being full, to spur him to reach for things beyond his grasp. Finding work or riches is its byproduct, not its reason for being.

In a deeper sense, what we're basically saying when we suggest that the purpose of education is to find work is that we live to work rather than we work to live. That is as monumental a confusion about means and ends as you can get.

That confusion is more pervasive than we think. It is patent in the way we conceive of "development," though what is patent is often the least visible to the naked eye. Our concept of development is that farmers and workers, who are the majority of the people of this country, should live miserable lives to ensure growth, not that growth should ensure better lives for farmers and workers. Of course the latter is implied, but the silence over it soon leads to its being forgotten. Look at the utterances of government officials in this respect and see if growth has not become the end rather than the means. And see if people have not become the means rather than the end.

It's a silly view of life, which however has now taken on the aspect of a truism. The opposite in fact is true. People are the end, the economy is the means. Education is the end, making a living is the means. Education is not wasted whether people find jobs or not. It is the end in itself, the flowering of life.

Education has its pragmatic or utilitarian value too, but so in ways that go beyond the notion of "have AB (or BS), will work." Education is practical too in that it helps us see things in a new light, change the terms of an equation, or ask entirely different questions—three ways of saying the same thing. In this respect, I've always found that joke about the difference between a Chinoy and Pinoy graduate a most illuminating one. A Pinoy graduate, the joke goes, will ask another Pinoy graduate: What job have you found? A Chinoy graduate will ask another Chinoy graduate: What business have you formed? It is in fact no joke at all, it is a thoughtful observation about life in these parts.

Doubtless, many will say that is just a function of having capital, or being born into a family with one. Well, it is that too. But it is more than that: It is a different attitude toward life, it is a different perspective on life. I will not theorize on its origins. I will just say here that I've always thought education could do the same trick. You have education, you can think of possibilities that go beyond those your society has thrust on you. You have education, you can glimpse worlds beyond those your parents and their parents before them laid out for you. You have education, you need not dream of serving others, you can dream of conquering worlds.

You have education, you have imagination, you have moral judgment, you have the ability to distinguish means and ends. At the very least, you won't strike the pose of a vulture, waiting to pounce on the carcasses of the dead, which our government would have us do in Iraq, a thoroughly shameful thing to do. Which also suggests that not all those who go through school and earn letters after their names, which many of today's leaders have, get to be educated at all.

But that is yet another story, or column.

* * *

Comments to dequiros@info.com.ph

Toting up the losses

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

AN EARLY assessment of who lost in the Iraqi war draws in sharp relief at least three losers—the brutal dictatorship of Saddam Hussein; the transatlantic alliance which was deeply split over the US decision to invade Iraq without UN authorization; and the Iraqi National Museum in Baghdad, whose priceless artifacts on the cradle of ancient civilization in Mesopotamia were looted during the collapse of Baghdad.

The political aspects of the crumbling of the regime of Saddam are yet to be fully assessed, and it will take a long time to tell whether regime change in Baghdad will lead to the establishment of a modern democracy in Iraq.

If we are to learn from the consequences of the early 20th century American imperialism that saw the conquest of the Philippines at the turn of the last century and the planting of American-style democracy in these islands, we are not encouraged to be optimistic about the new American transformation experiment in the Middle East whose culture and religion are more difficult to deal with than the Philippine culture overlaid by more than three centuries of Spanish colonialism which has a strong element of Christianity embedded in it.

Right off the bat, although very few lament the overthrow of Saddam, the biggest cultural loss to the world is the looting of Iraq's National Museum of Antiquity. War, of course, destroys buildings, and it can be said that in the American bombardment of Baghdad, they tried to be very precise. Indeed, the museum was spared the bombing, although many of the government ministries, command centers and military targets inside the capital were demolished. But the museum did not survive the fate of most public buildings which were invaded by mobs in a looting spree while American tanks and armor crashed into Baghdad.

Iraqi, Unesco and international museum authorities had called the attention of the American military to the danger of looting, ahead of the offensive on Baghdad, but apparently this notice came to naught. True, most of the looting was done by the Iraqis themselves, but it has now developed that the pillage was more systematic and planned than an anarchic mob action. The looters knew what galleries and vaults they pried open and whose treasures they carted away.

Iraqi museum officials are sad and angry that the US military did very little to stop the looting at the museum, in the midst of the pillage of public buildings, hospitals, schools and business establishments. US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld dismissed charges that the US forces had allowed widespread looting of Iraqi cities, saying that chaos was an inevitable part of the destruction of Saddam's regime. "We didn't allow it. It happened," he said. "And that's what happens when you go from a dictatorship with repressed order, a police state, to something that's different. There's a transition period and no one is in control."

Rumsfeld angrily blamed the media for "exaggerating" the looting and made the outrageous statement while TV footage showed wholesale looting taking place in the cities and while people pulled down statues of the reviled and hated dictator.

But Rumsfeld hit the peak of political insensitivity when he said that "free people" had a right to commit crime after they had been "liberated"—a statement that takes the same rank of cynicism with the American doctrine of "preemptive strike" and unilateral action, barely disguised as a collective action by the so-called "coalition of the willing," of which the Philippines is a token member.

So scandalous was the looting of the Baghdad museum that three members of the US committee on natural artifacts resigned, accusing the US military of failing to stop the looting. The Baghdad National Museum of Antiquities is one of the most important repositories of cultural treasures of antiquity in the Middle East. It houses artifacts of Sumerian, Babylonian and Assyrian civilizations on the Mesopotamian valley, bracketed by the Tigris and Euphrates rivers.

It records the civilizations on the Mesopotamian plain for more than 7,000 years. Mesopotamia is the site of modern Iraq carved out of the Ottoman Empire after World War I by Britain, whose mandate created the modern Iraqi state from the ruins of the Ottoman empire, superimposed on the layers of older civilizations.

Feared lost are the tablets of the Code of Hammurabi—one of mankind's earliest codes of law famous for the stern injunction, "a tooth for a tooth, and a nail for a nail." "The fact that the vaults were opened suggests employees of the museum may have been involved," one museum official said. "To the ordinary people, these are just stones. Only the educated know the value of these pieces."

Press reports say that at least 50,000 artifacts were carried out within 48 hours of looting, and it is feared they would find their way into the antique markets all over the world and wouldn't be recovered anymore.

No one is accusing the US troops of taking part in the looting but their failure to protect the museum from the pillage is revealing of American priorities in many wars their soldiers have fought.

Preservation of cultural treasures obviously takes low priority and in Iraq, protection of the oil fields—a strategic resource—from fire was a high priority. Troops seized most of the oil fields before the regime could put them to the torch.

In the battle for the liberation of Manila in 1945, a priceless cultural heritage—Intramuros—was obliterated, reduced to rubble and lost forever to the Filipino nation in relentless American shelling to flush out Japanese troops inside the Walled City and in vicious street to street and door to door fighting.

The message of control

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

ON VALENTINE'S Day three years ago, a Japanese customer summoned Rosita Canaman, a bar girl, to his hotel room for sex. As he told the police later, he became enraged when he caught her stealing from him. The customer then stabbed Rosita in the neck with a fork (!), strangled her and pushed her through a window on the 21st floor of the building.

The Japanese then called the escort service to request another companion for the evening, but the service called the police when he told them what happened to Rosita. It turned out that the customer had been accused of rape several times before, yet managed to avoid prosecution each time by paying a token amount to the victim's family.

Eric Ratliff, who tells this story, says Rosita's fate is an "ominous narrative" for many of the women he had worked with on his "ethnographic" research on women in the sex industry. "Since (the Japanese) was a regular customer at the bars in Manila where I conduct research," recounts Ratliff, "I discussed this event with some of the women who knew him personally. They described him as a 'sadist,' noting that his drug use caused him to 'go crazy' sometimes. However, this attack did not induce a general recognition of vulnerability among these women working in an occupation that is usually associated with a high incidence of sexual violence. Women working in the go-go bars—and indeed female friends throughout Philippine society have informed me that violence can occur anywhere at any time..."

* * *

"WITHIN two days of this savage murder," notes Ratliff, the Japanese was back in the go-go bars "seeking comfort in the company of friends who did not want to have anything to do with him anymore...Several women later told me that they ran and hid upstairs when he came into the bar, hoping to avoid him because they were afraid. His mere presence on the streets serves as a form of gendered terrorism because it reveals the extent of male power, able to get away with murder because the state does not care to prosecute violent offenders especially when the victim is labeled a 'prostitute,' and thus viewed as being responsible for her own demise."

"Sex-for-delivery *libreng droga pa*!" is how Abante Tonight headlined its story on Rosita, who was described as not just a prostitute but as a drug provider as well (a charge relatives deny). Regardless of the motives for thus labeling the victim, Ratliff says "her identification as a prostitute diminishes the severity of the crime, and indeed, her case faded from the headlines as a more 'serious' mauling of a cab driver caught the media's attention (he received a black eye in an altercation with several American servicemen)."

* * *

RATLIFF observes that in this country, social "controls" constrict the behavior of women while serving to "punish" those women who dare cross them. "Filipino women realize that they risk sexual violence simply by being in a public place—especially at night—because they are considered available for sex if they are not accompanied by a protective male figure." "Antiquated" vagrancy laws are often invoked by police to arrest women suspected of engaging in prostitution, though their suspicions are often triggered by nothing more substantial than a woman's having an unusual hair color, wearing heavy makeup or revealing clothing, or behaving in a boisterous manner.

In the last few years, the government has embarked on a day-care construction program, mainly in response to findings that most incidents of incestuous and child rape occurred inside the home between 10 a.m. and noon. Women's groups also argued that the feminization of migrant labor left children vulnerable to the abuse or neglect of fathers who are not prepared to raise a family alone. And yet, Ratliff points out, "despite the increasing recognition of home and family as a location of violence, the government insists in maintaining the current structure at all costs by denying couples the right to divorce, and providing few alternatives for women in abusive situations."

Ratliff cites the policy of making individual plaintiffs responsible for paying all legal fees as in effect "rendering justice inaccessible for most." Also, he points out, "local values dictate that confrontation should be avoided, so domestic conflicts and instances of sexual abuse rarely make it to the courts. In many cases, single women who have been raped are encouraged to marry their attackers to avoid scandal. Men who realize that this is a socially desired outcome of sexual violence have thus employed rape and kidnapping as an accepted form of courtship and expression of desire."

* * *

MANY of the women he interacted with uttered the cautionary statement that Ratliff uses as the title of his paper: "You have to be careful of uncles because they might rape you." "Uncle" in this case, says Ratliff, refers not just to a male blood relative but also includes "the many fictive kin that form the basis of intimate Filipino social relations." That the women recognized the threat posed by real or honorific "uncles" shows, says Ratliff, "how prevalent the idea of the predatory male is in this culture."

"Kinship" is supposed to preclude any sexual motivations or relations among the people involved, but Ratliff says "the status of these individuals in the local context should be analyzed to discern the nature of consent." In the local setting, both wives and prostitutes are seen as not having any right to refuse sexual relations. And fathers convicted of raping their daughters often justify their acts by citing their wives' refusal or inability to satisfy their sexual needs, needs which daughters must then fulfill.

An Easter egg game

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

GENERATION gap was so clear to me and my nieces last Easter Sunday as they were all excited about the Easter egg hunt. As I watched my sister paint and decorate two cartons of eggs on Good Friday I could not think of my nieces and their happiness as I knew we would have omelet for three weeks. Easter eggs and the Easter bunny were not part of my childhood and I felt like a dinosaur until I opened the drafts of Jose Rizal's third unfinished novel, a manuscript known by the chapter title "Makamisa" or "After Mass." In this work written in 1892, Rizal describes how a small town is dominated by a friar named Padre Agaton. More interesting than the story, however, are the vignettes into what I think is rural life in a Southern Tagalog town in the late 19th century. Rizal describes a game played by boys and young men who have not reached adulthood called *tuktukan*.

I have never seen this game played except in a video documentary on Philippine games and rituals. Rizal leaves us with a less scandalous version of an egg-cracking game usually played by boys who tie eggs on strings around their waists, and with these hanging between their legs, attempt to crack the eggs of another player by swift pelvic thrusts that hit the opponent's egg hard enough to crack. First to crack, of course, is the loser. Perhaps there was no malice in the game but in this day of video and computer games, these physical games really look Jurassic. In Rizal's version of *tuktukan* the eggs are cracked in the hands of the combatants.

Tuktukan is just part of this unfinished novel by Rizal. People bet on the players, Silvino and Cecilio, as they would in a cockpit but then the game is only played, according to Rizal, during Lent and this scene happens during a procession. Silvino has a reputation for cheating yet the game continues and ends in a street brawl. Naturally, people are distracted from the procession. The brawl should be short and swift but then Capitan Panchong, father of Cecilio, and Tanukang, father of Silvino, join the fray and the trouble gets bigger than it should. I translated the manuscript from the original Spanish and this is how it goes:

"On one side of the town one could see numerous groups of men, seated in front of the *tiendas* and food stalls run by the women, in heated discussion on the issues of the day. [On the other side] the young men carried chicken eggs and busied themselves with their favorite pastime called *tuktukan*, played only during Lent, while their fathers and elders were in the cockpit playing with their fortunes.

"Boys usually played *tuktukan* until they become adults. The only difference between this game and cockfighting was money. In cockfighting, one lost large sums but in *tuktukan*, the winner just took the cracked egg. [Before playing *tuktukan*, they first] carefully examined the eggs to determine whether one was more resistant than the other by testing them slightly against each other. Firmly holding the eggs, they gave each a slight stroke on the elongated portion of the egg. This slight blow on the lower part of the egg usually produced a tiny crack while the top remained intact.

"In the plaza, one could see Silvino, son of Tanukang, among the group of youngsters. He was well-dressed and carried a small pouch with half-a-dozen eggs that he had previously won, wrapped in a silk handkerchief. He was thus challenging everyone to an eggshell cracking contest.

"'*Tuktukan*!' He shouted triumphantly. 'Come on, are you afraid? Come on! I have already received several blows.' The other young men, upon seeing his basket full of eggs, shied away and refused to join the contest. Silvino was notorious among the boys for being clever, arrogant and very demanding because his father was in power. Besides all this, everyone murmured that Silvino was a cheat, who filled his eggs with very fine brick or metal pellets.

"'*Tuktukan*!' he shouted more arrogantly each time, and many responded by shaking their heads and keeping silent. Seeing that nobody would dare challenge him, he approached the son of Capitan Panchong, who was also in the crowd and provoked him. 'Lets go, the two of us.' He said with a provocative air.

"Cecilio, the son of Capitan Panchong, who was timid and bashful responded: 'I don't want to play with you. I'm not feeling well.'

"'Oh! Are you afraid?' Silvino sneered.

"'What? Me? Afraid of what?' Cecilio replied, somewhat irked. 'Let us examine the eggs first. Oh, I guess you don't want to show your egg because it is filled with tiny brick pellets.'

"Silvino was irritated by these comments. 'What brick pellets are you talking about? You're a coward! The truth is you're just afraid of your father, [that's why you don't want to play].'

"'Say that again? [the once timid Cecilio answered]. When was I ever afraid of my father?'

"'*Tuktukan*!" Silvino shouted triumphantly and maliciously. '*Tuktukan*! Who would dare challenge me?' he repeatedly cried aloud.

"Still everyone refused to take the challenge, especially when somebody whispered that Silvino's winning egg might be a fake. In fact, young boys could devise many ways of faking an egg. Some would meticulously prick a small hole into the eggshell, then fill it up with tiny brick or metal pellets to reinforce the elongated part of the egg.

(Conclusion on Friday)

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

When a museum falls victim to war

COMMENTARY

John L. Silva

FOR CONCERNED museum lovers around the world, the news came over the weekend of the catastrophe we all feared. One day after the American troops entered Baghdad, the National Museum of Iraq was looted and a reported 170,000 artifacts carted away, many of the major antiquities of the Mesopotamian civilization.

Thousands of men, women and children, brandishing guns, knives and clubs stormed into the national museum despite unheeded appeals by museum staff members to American troops in tanks just 500 yards away to stop the crowd. Most in the crowd were from the poor districts of the city but there were many too, who were middle class and darted into the 18 vaulted chambers of the museum, knowing where to go and what to steal.

Mohsen Hassan, a 56-year-old deputy curator of the museum, pleaded with American military commanders to protect the building but was given no help. Instead, Hassan, who spent 34 years developing the collection, could only watch helplessly as men with sledgehammers smashed glass display cases and fired guns to break the locks.

The loot included 4,000-year-old gold necklaces, jewelry and a gold harp from the Sumerian Dynasty. Hauled out too in wheelbarrows and carts were ancient stone carvings of kings and princesses, cuneiform tablets, tapestry, tablets on geometry, ceramics, urns and bowls dating 2,000 years back.

The refusal of the American forces to safeguard the national museum is a clear violation of the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict. The convention specifically states that during conflicts, all parties must protect archives, libraries, monuments and sites and museums. International museum organizations had brought this matter up to both the American and British government months before the war began.

The destruction of the National Museum of Iraq painfully recalls the ravages of war inflicted on our own national museum. Mortar fire in World War II during the American "liberation" of Manila resulted in the loss of over 90 percent of the national museum's collection.

The world saw on television how the coalition forces took great pains to successfully secure the majority of Iraq's oil fields from any sabotage attempts by Saddam Hussein's Republican Forces. Yet, the coalition forces remained indifferent to the rampant destruction and accompanying looting of hospitals, government buildings for trade, agriculture and higher education, historical monuments and museums. With the much touted weapons of mass destruction still not found, the common perception that the American government waged war only to capture oil fields becomes increasingly plausible.

One outcome of war is the absence of order and civility. The military strategists in Washington, D.C. and London, obsessed with their own weapons of mass destruction, overlooked the anarchy and tragic aftermath of the war they spawned and should be taken to task for abandoning the police duties they must now bear. Unfortunately, for the National Museum of Iraq, there is nothing left to police. All its most valuable artifacts which trace the founding of three major world religions—Judaism, Christianity and Islam—in the region have vanished.

Many of the "unwilling" countries and its citizens opposed to the Iraq war cited the unnecessary civilian deaths that would result, and the destruction and looting of Iraq's museum treasures known to be the most extensive and valuable among all Middle Eastern museums. In addition, Iraq is dotted with thousands of historical monuments and archaeological sites often referred to in biblical passages.

In contrast, the "coalition of the willing" as exemplified by President Macapagal-Arroyo, has been boasting even before the fighting has stopped that there are thousands of jobs waiting for Filipinos in the reconstruction of Iraq. Snubbing the peace entreaties of her own spiritual leader, Pope John Paul II, and the majority of the Filipino people's staunch opposition to the war, President Macapagal unfortunately depicts herself not as a statesperson but as an amoral individual now angling for her piece of the action. The hundreds of maimed and dying Iraqi children in looted hospitals have not yet recovered or been placed in decent caskets and this President is already calculating her cheerleading reward. Will her Filipino humanitarian team be able to piece back torn children's limbs or the shards of bombed ceramics in sites such as Basra where the biblical Adam and Eve's Paradise was supposedly located? Will her team of social workers be able to heal a people whose national patrimony have now been ransacked?

It is all too terribly premature for the President to think that Filipinos will be welcomed with open arms and get plum jobs in the region. This tarnished country, one of the first founders of the United Nations, has plummeted to the status of an ambulance chaser, a derisive term for low-class lawyers who keep tabs of emergency patients for possible litigation fees. After the initial shock and eventual painful discovery that the region has irretrievably lost its artistic and historical treasures, we shouldn't be rudely disturbed if our workers become targets of fury in the Middle East.

Raid Abdul Rihar Muhammad, an archaeologist who has done extensive work in Iraq's 10,000 archaeological sites, said in an interview with the New York Times, "A country's identity, its value and civilization reside in its history. If a country's civilization is looted, as ours has been here, its history ends. Please tell this to President Bush. Please remind him that he promised to liberate the Iraqi people, but that this is not liberation, this is a humiliation."

For those of us who opposed this obscene war, we wish to state our profound sadness and lament for the many, now uncountable deaths of innocent Iraqi people. With the demise of the National Museum of Iraq, we now must mourn too the setback of civilization's progress as exemplified in the global yearning to preserve its heritage. In the cultural realm, there are no victors. Destruction, carnage and barbarism are the only victors.

John L. Silva is the senior consultant of the National Museum of the Philippines.

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Not feeding on Iraqi misery

WITH DEFERENCE, it was puritanical for the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines to consider it immoral for the country to prepare to send 100,000 Filipino workers to help in rebuilding Iraq. (PDI, 4/16/03) If that were to be the attitude of all democratic societies, how could a country known to depend on overseas workers even in peaceful times rise from the debris of war?

No, we are not feeding on the misery of the Iraqis! We are just getting real—as real as when a contractor quotes a price for the reconstruction of a house ravaged by fire, or when a priest collects funeral fees from the anguished survivor of a massacre. Indeed, there are legions of true-to-life situations where money must change hands without necessarily making the process immoral.

On the other hand, I decry the primacy given by the government to the sending of a peacekeeping force to Iraq over and above the country's clearly more urgent national priorities. For one, international protocols require that governments must officially relate with one another in the pursuit of their common objectives. Given that a post-Saddam government has yet to be established, our government's spontaneous reaction to help pacify the civil disorders in Iraq was too hasty and half-cocked.

More importantly, we have our own wars in Mindanao where peace has long been a stranger. True, nearly our entire armed forces are already there, relentlessly chasing terrorists into the hinterlands. Like the Iraqis, our brother Mindanaoans have also lost their homes, their jobs, their relatives, their children's schools and perhaps their futures. Merely housing them in evacuation centers is not enough to heal their loss and their pain. Neither should they be relegated to looking after mere doles; they, after all, have normal lives to rebuild. But unlike the Iraqis, they do not have the United States, United Kingdom and Australia and the rest of the benevolent free world to help them. Mindanao needs more direly the kind of sympathy that we are giving to Iraq. I would have liked that the Philippine government would pour out its humanitarian urges in the right direction and in the right place, nearer home.

—RUDY L. CORONEL,
10 Venus St., Golden Country
Homes, Alangilan, Batangas City

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

Soldiering on

THIS has reference to the column written by Raul J. Palabrica last March 16.

Allow me to thank him for his in-depth discussion of one of the most important yet often ignored issues: the pork barrel, also euphemistically called Priority Assistance Development Fund.

In his column, Palabrica correctly pointed out that Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson could have trodden an unfamiliar territory when he stood before his peers and urged them to scrap the pork barrel from the national budget. No one before him had dared to make such a call concerning the matter, which every congressman or senator, apart maybe from Sen. Joker Arroyo, holds dearest to his heart.

For Lacson, one of the best ways to reward the people who trusted and elected him into office is to scrap the pork barrel because he is convinced that it is a major source of corruption aside from the fact that it will help reduce the ballooning budget deficit if the P200 million allotted to every legislator is deleted in the proposed national budget.

Like a lonely soldier fighting a lonely war, Lacson dared his colleagues to follow his lead but as Palabrica quaintly observed, he was ignored and was not even given the traditional parliamentary courtesy of being questioned on the points that he raised.

By doing and saying nothing, his colleagues sent a clear message to him "that the pork barrel has already grown so big, maybe even bigger than the Senate that discussing the same is tantamount to committing a cardinal sin."

However, we would like to assure the readers of Palabrica's column that Lacson will not be affected by the cold shoulder treatment he got from his peers, but this will inspire him all the more to stand on issues that he believes are right even if they are unpopular or will generate negative reactions from his fellow lawmakers.

It is also inspiring to know that there are still people like Palabrica who could see the wisdom behind the issues that certainly need to be addressed.

Also, with the support he is getting from ordinary people, Lacson will not be like a lonely soldier anymore fighting a lonely fight, because he derives great strength from the people who believe that he is on the right path.

—RUFUS RODRIGUEZ,
spokesman
for Sen. Panfilo Lacson

A more apt title for RP mission to Iraq

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo's humanitarian mission to Iraq is actually a business and employment delegation.

It's impossible to hold back indignation regarding the Macapagal administration's plans to send a so-called humanitarian mission. Based on the latest reports, the mission is not really humanitarian in character. The administration is in truth sending a group of business prospectors and mercenary troops. The appointment of businessman Jose C. Ibazeta exposed the administration's true objectives for sending a mission to Iraq—to scout the territory for possible business and employment opportunities and to have the Macapagal administration further ingratiate itself with the US government.

Ibazeta's background as a businessman fits hand in glove with President Macapagal's goals for sending a mission to Iraq. Ibazeta is the chair of Atlas Mining and Development Corp. and a consultant to the chair of A. Soriano Corp. He is also a director of AB Capital Investment Corp., PET Plans and International Container Terminal Services Inc.

If it's to be a real humanitarian mission, then the President would be sending a doctor to lead it, or religious leaders. But since a businessman is heading it, then it's clearly a business campaign. Then there are also the insider reports that President Macapagal is set to issue an executive order mapping out her administration's strategy to take advantage of the economic opportunities in Iraq's post-war rehabilitation.

There is already talk circulating in various business circles and key government offices that the President wants coordination between government agencies and the private sector to make full use of government resources in clinching multimillion-dollar deals in engineering and construction work in Iraq. Clearly, the administration's first priority is to secure financial assistance and endorsements for qualified Filipino contractors to assist them in securing contracts for construction and engineering works and subcontracting arrangements with American transnationals such as Bechtel Corp., Haliburton and Fluor Daniel, which are expected to corner most business deals in post-war Iraq.

Meanwhile, aside from the businessmen and a sprinkling of medical personnel, the bulk of the government's Humanitarian Assistance Task Force (HATF) is mostly composed of police and military officials, who will be joining the US, British and allied forces in trying to pacify Iraqi civil resistance. It's hard to see how this so-called mission will be providing humanitarian aid when its members are too busy either trying to bag business and employment deals, and conducting civilian pacification campaigns alongside the US, British and allied troops.

—CRISPIN B. BELTRAN,
party-list representative,
Bayan Muna, Rm. 617 6/F South Wing,
House of Representatives

Strategic plan for Iraq opportunities needed

OUR country should be seizing the golden economic opportunities in post-war Iraq reconstruction. Business opportunities and construction boom resulting from the $100 million allotted for rebuilding Iraq should entice our government to devise strategies for economic gains.

Right now, such strategies have yet to be devised. Although certain organizations like the Federation of Filipino Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FCCCI), Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Philippine Trading Corp., including construction firms like DMCI Holdings Inc., and EEI Corp., have signified interest in working with government agencies, a strategic plan has yet to surface.

Our rising unemployment "due to the rash of business closures and dislocation of labor, and the increasing number of graduates yearly," should compel us to seize the golden moment by sending all needed workers that we could possibly send in Iraq. Exporting Philippine food products for Iraqi oil would be another way of maximizing our possible economic share from Iraq rebuilding.

—DODO RA. CAGAS,
3rd Estrada St., Digos City,
Davao del Sur

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Saddam's 'Shiite Thug' in US custody

DOHA, Qatar—Muhammad Hamza al-Zubaydi, known as Saddam Hussein's "Shiite Thug" for his role in Iraq's bloody suppression of the Shiite Muslim uprising of 1991, was arrested Monday, the US Central Command said.

Bush administration officials have identified al-Zubaydi as one of nine Iraqis—including Saddam himself—sought for trial on charges of war crimes or crimes against humanity.

A nurse by training and former member of Iraq's ruling Revolutionary Command Council and regional commander of the central Euphrates district, al-Zubaydi was No. 18 on a list of the 55 most-wanted figures from the Saddam's regime. Iraqi opposition groups have accused him of the 1999 assassination of a top Shiite cleric.

"This is very significant—he is one of the most hated men in the former regime," said Haider Ahmad, a London-based spokesperson for the Iraqi National Congress, one of the numerous parties that, in exile, had opposed Saddam's government.

He was an associate of Saddam since the early 1960s and had been retired from a public role in the leadership for about two years.

Central Command gave no further details on his arrest. The Iraqi National Congress, the leading anti-Saddam organization, said its forces arrested al-Zubaydi in Hillah, about 100 km south of Baghdad, and turned him over to US forces.

Ahmad said local people tipped forces to where al-Zubaydi was hiding with his son, and that the two were caught together.

"He was hiding in an abandoned, derelict area, not a built-up area," he said.

With Monday's capture, eight of the 55 most wanted are now in custody, though none of them is from the very top of the list. A ninth figure, Ali Hassan al-Majid—a top adviser to Saddam and known as "Chemical Ali" for his use of poison gas against Iraq's Kurdish minority—is believed to have been killed in an airstrike in Basra.

Al-Zubaydi, a former prime minister and deputy prime minister, was one of the key figures in suppressing the uprising of Iraq's Shiite majority that followed Iraq's defeat in the 1991 Gulf War. Tens of thousands of people died.

Al-Zubaydi was considered one of the most brutal members of Saddam's regime and was listed in a US State Department report "Iraq: Crimes against Humanity, Leaders as Executioners." He was once featured in an Iraqi videotape brutalizing Shiite dissidents as a display of authority and encouragement to soldiers to be tough.

A Shiite himself, al-Zubaydi also presided over the destruction of the southern marshes in the 1990s, an action aimed against Shiite "Marsh Arabs" living there. *AP*

Iraqi pilgrims, freed of Saddam, throng Kerbala

KERBALA, Iraq—Countless thousands of Iraqi Shiite Muslims, oppressed under Saddam Hussein, thronged the holy city of Kerbala on Tuesday, free for the first time in decades to mark one the most sacred moments of their year.

Traffic ground to a halt as the pilgrims, many with chests, heads and faces bloodied from self-flagellation, chanted in praise of Imam Hussein, a grandson of Islam's Prophet Mohammad and one of the first leaders of the Shiite Muslim community.

Shiite leaders say a million or more may flock to Kerbala, 110 km south of Baghdad, for the climax of the pilgrimage, Arbaiin, the 40th day after the death of Hussein.

As the procession made its way past crates of live chicken and hillocks of tomatoes, the pilgrims' chest-thumping ritual thundered across the city, scaring off flocks of pigeons.

Men in flowing white robes crowded atop trucks or perched on rooftops above banners. One, in English, read: "The Imam Hussein Revolution was a scream in the face of the oppressors."

Fighting among Mohammad's followers that led to Hussein's death is at the root of the split between Shiites and the Sunni Muslims, who are in the majority elsewhere in the Arab world.

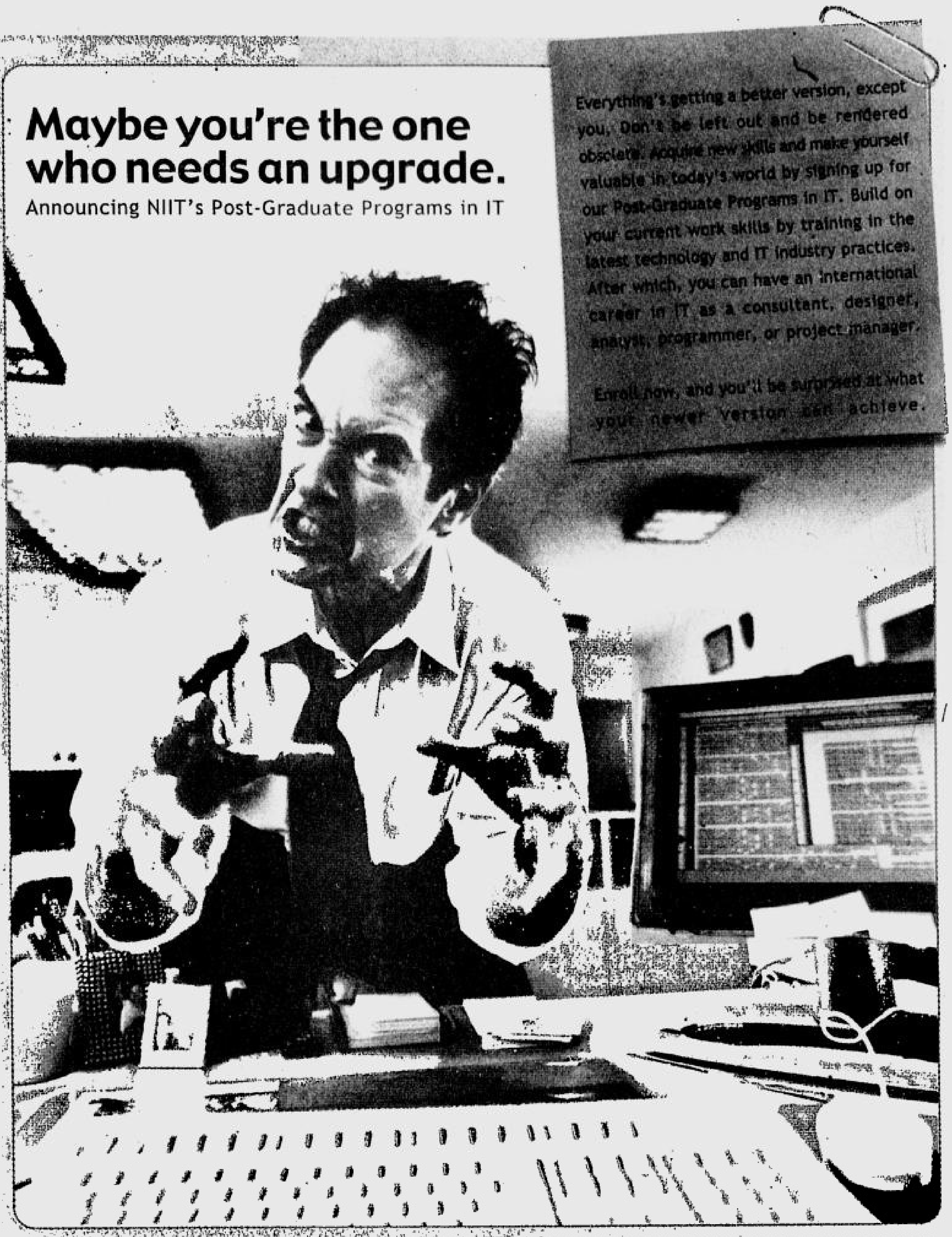
Some waved black flags for mourning, others the green flag of Islam. Women enrobed in black sat quietly at the roadside, slowly beating their chests. Many had walked barefoot on hot and dusty roads to reach Kerbala.

Street hawkers labored through the roads, shoving carts loaded down with crates of soft drinks as other men stood watching, chewing bread, smoking or thumbing worry beads.

Nearby was the pilgrims' goal—the gold-domed shrine of Imam Hussein which was surrounded by portraits of the Shiite leader held aloft by the faithful.

Such processions were banned under Saddam Hussein's secular government, which cracked down the Shiites—a 60 percent majority in Iraq—and suppressed their religious practices.

The last major celebration of Arbaain, in 1977, ended with Saddam's forces massacring Shiites on the roads to Kerbala. *Reuters*



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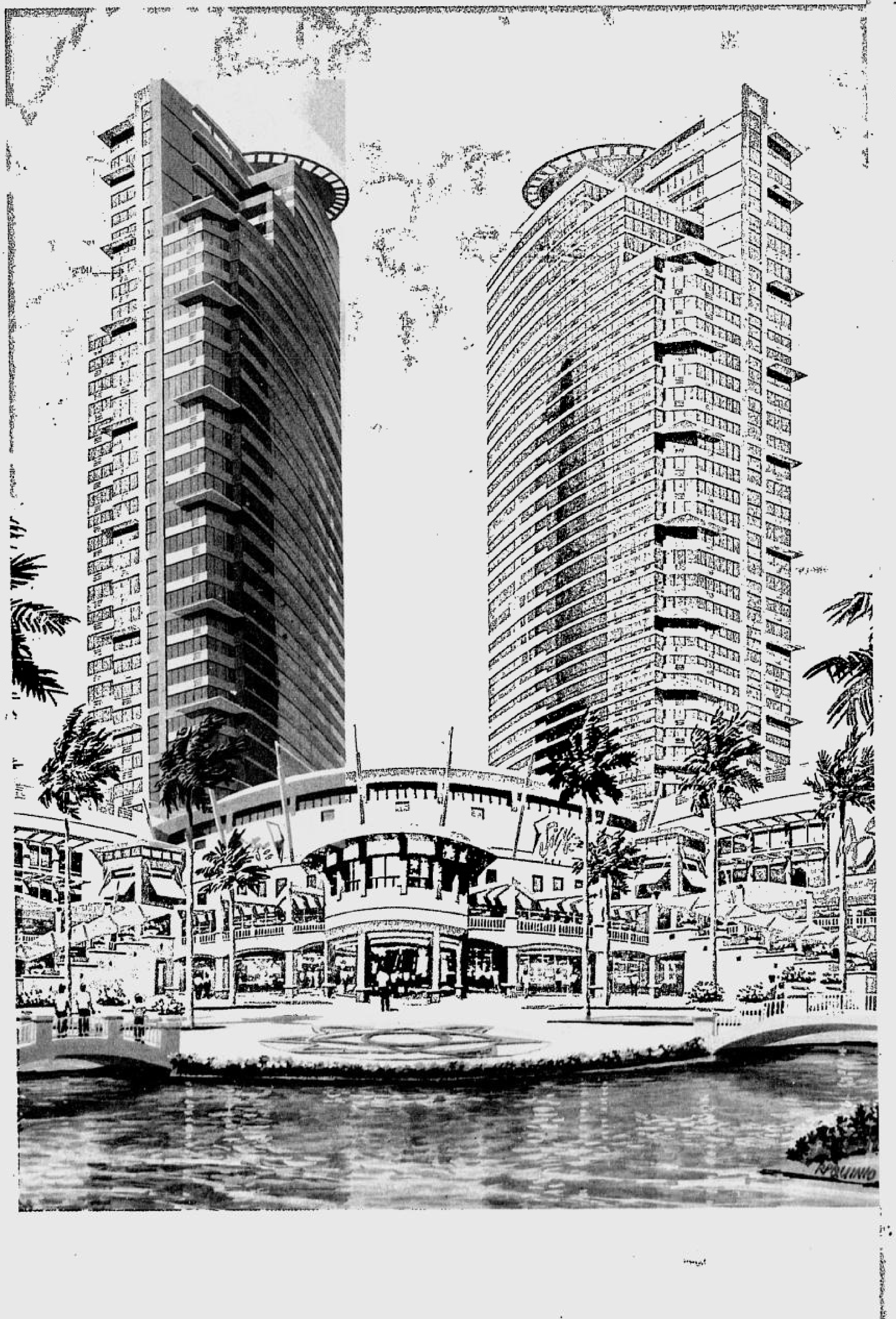

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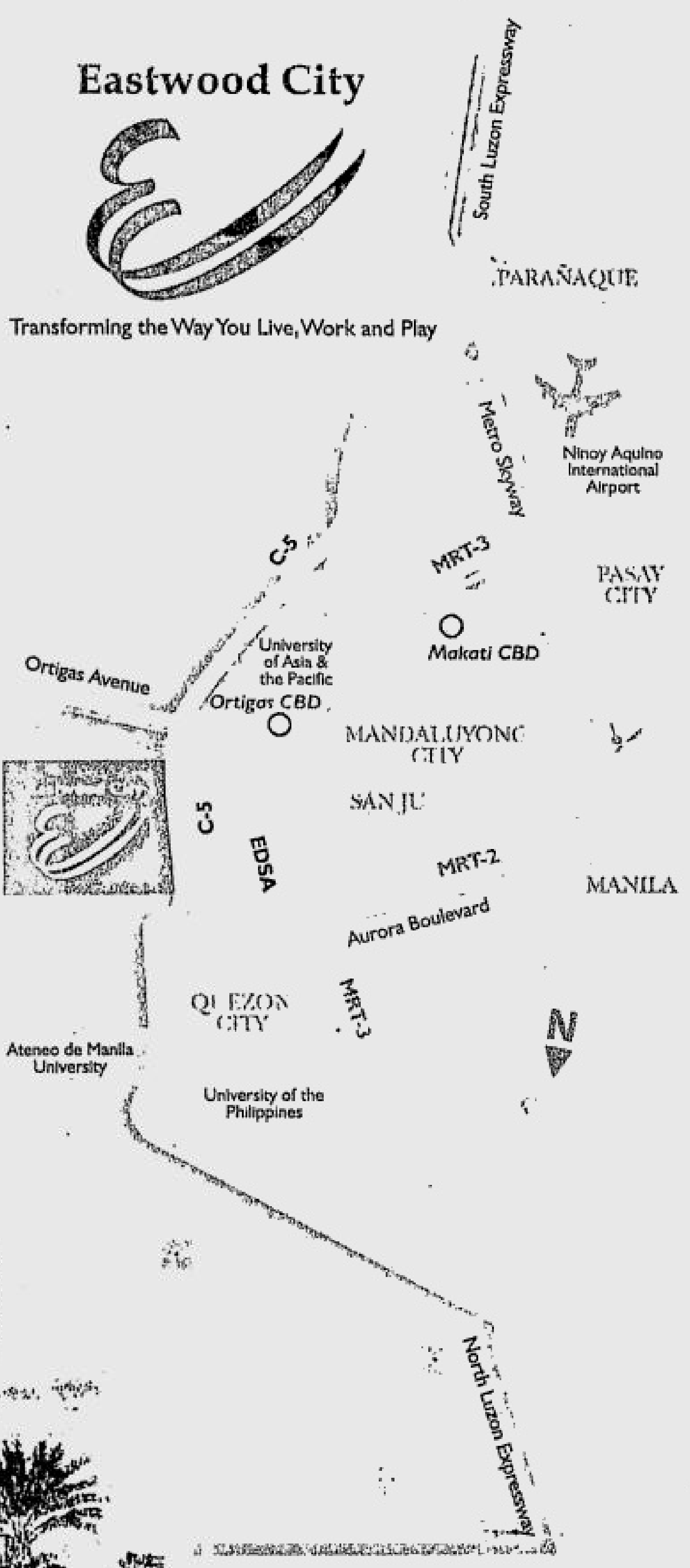

City Walk I: The meeting place of choice for lovers of food *and* fun

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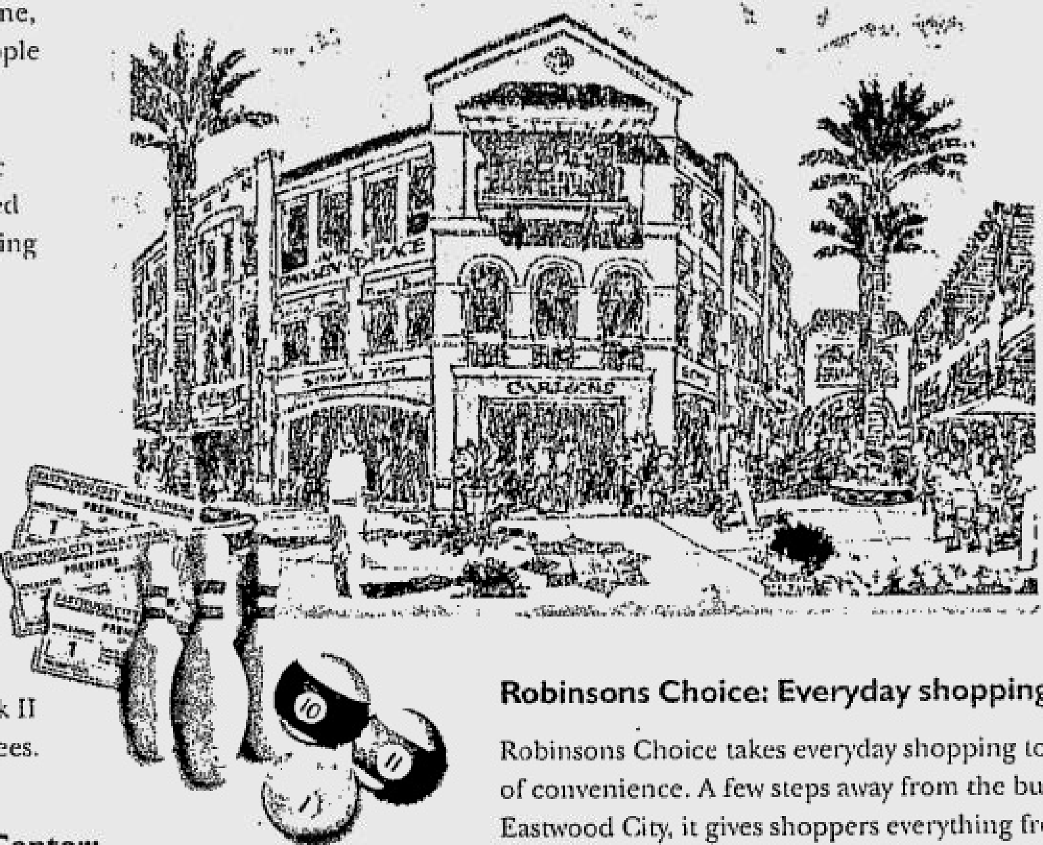

City Walk II: More options for filling up and chilling out

Lined up along City Walk II are more dining and entertainment choices for Eastwood City habitués. This expansion of City Walk I, expected to open for business by December this year, features a digital cinema complex plus a bowling and billiard center for sophisticated leisure seekers. Echoing the cozy, Miami-inspired theme of Eastwood Parkview, City Walk II also hosts new shops and cafés surrounded by palm trees.

Fashion Square and The Home & Lifestyle Center: The essentials of style for you and your home

Nestled on the fringes of City Walk I are two show houses of the latest concepts in personal fashion and home furnishings. Fashion Square is a beauty and lifestyle hub that offers the best in fashion, specialty items, personal care services and alfresco dining. The Home & Lifestyle Center, on the other hand, presents homemakers with a variety of design options to recreate their homes—from furniture to accessories and decors inspired by European, American and Asian lifestyles.

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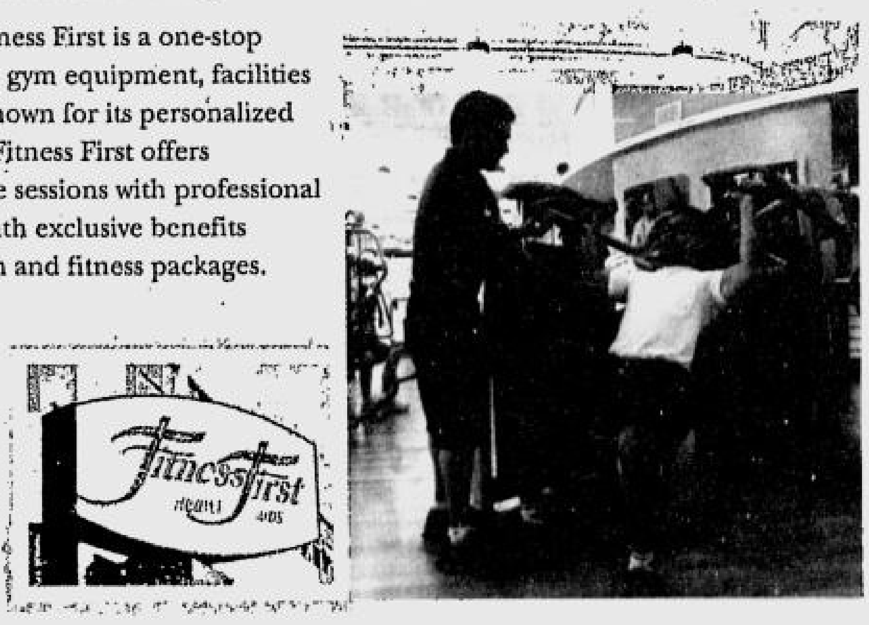
For health buffs, Fitness First is a one-stop center with first-rate gym equipment, facilities and services. Best known for its personalized training programs, Fitness First offers members one-to-one sessions with professional instructors, along with exclusive benefits and attractive health and fitness packages. Situated at the ground floor of TechnoPlaza One, Fitness First is within easy reach of both the homes and offices of Eastwood City.



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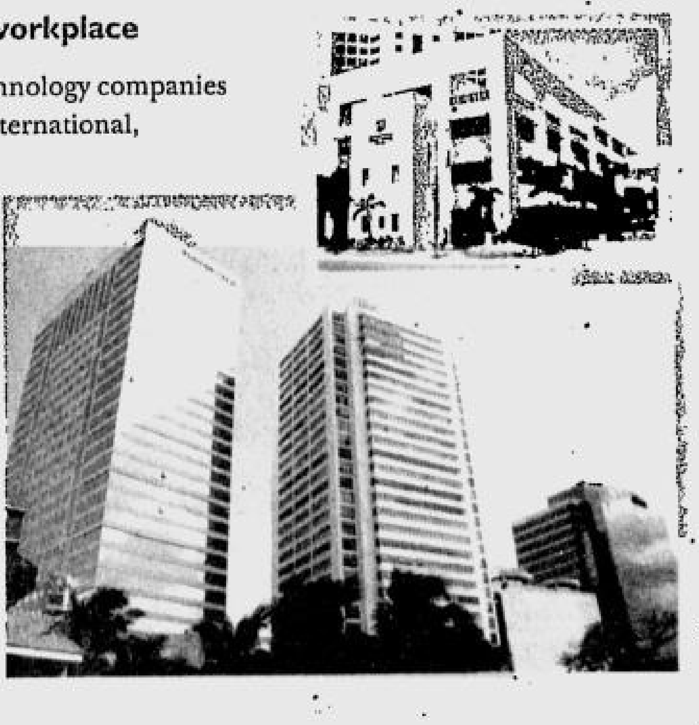
Opening by July 2003, the CyberMall brings together the leading retailers of electronics, communication services and IT-related products including General Electric, Globe Telecom, Electroworld and Semicon. Patterned after IT malls in Hong Kong, this one-stop IT-and-electronics hub is divided into three product-specific zones. The first level offers electronic items; the second level, computing devices and the third level, mobile phone products. The CyberMall also features a concept food alley, network gaming arcades and Internet cafés.

CyberPark: *The* technology workplace



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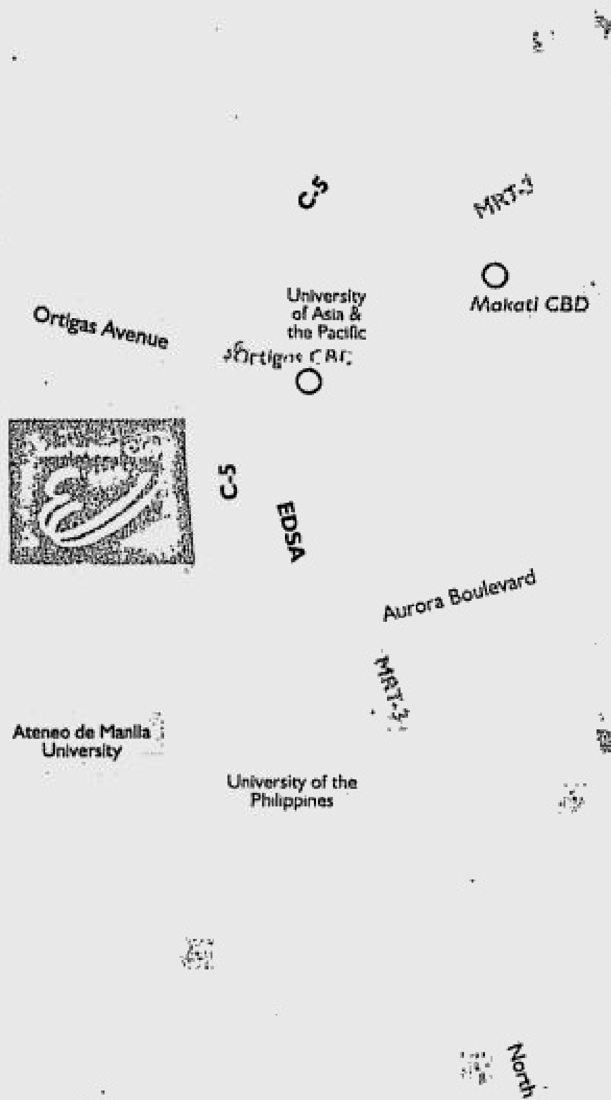
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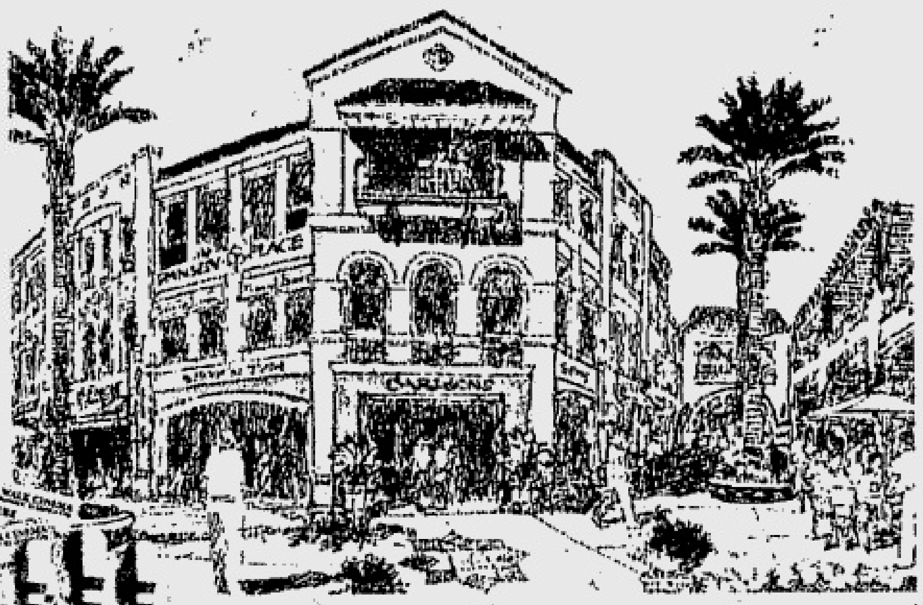

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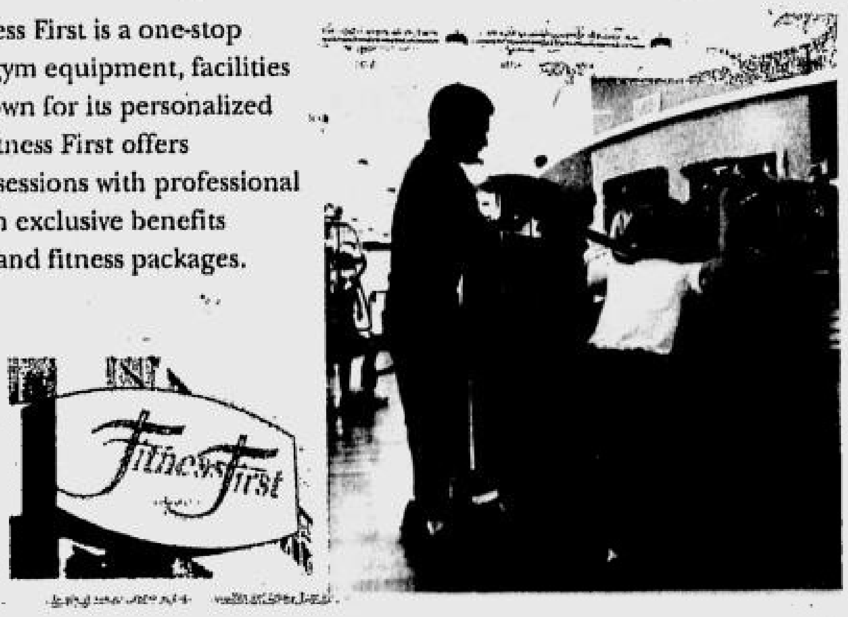

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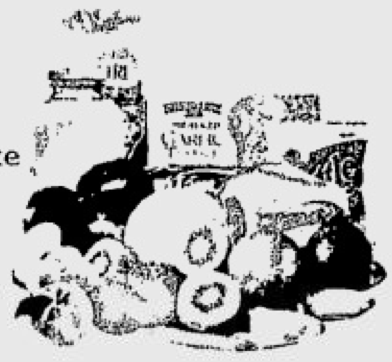

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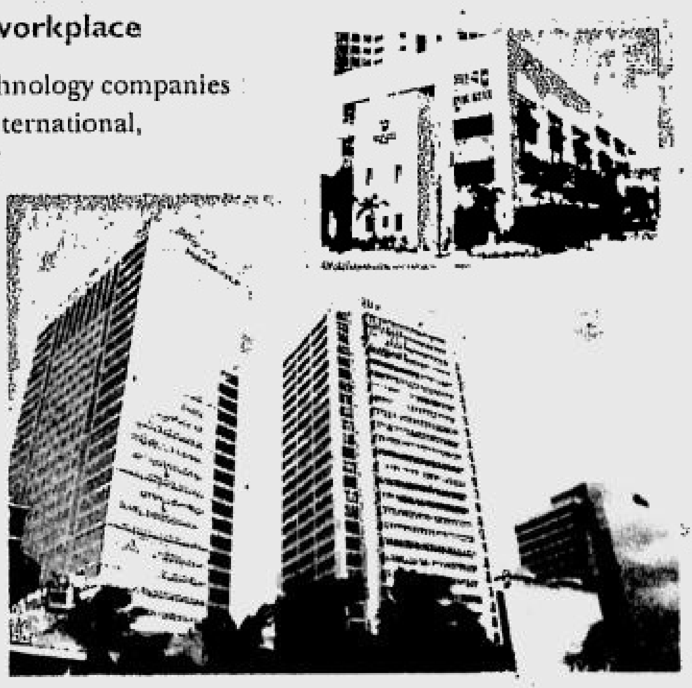

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Report: US keeps plan to bomb N. Korea plant

SYDNEY—The Pentagon has produced detailed plans to bomb North Korea's nuclear plant at Yongbyon if the Stalinist state goes ahead with reprocessing of spent nuclear fuel rods, an Australian report said Tuesday.

Citing "well-informed sources close to US thinking," The Australian newspaper said the plan also included a US strike against North Korean heavy artillery in the hills above the border with South Korea.

The artillery directly threatens Seoul as well as 17,000 US troops stationed south of the Demilitarized Zone.

The Pentagon hardliners said to be behind the plan reportedly believe the precision strikes envisaged in it would not lead to North Korea initiating a general war it would be certain to lose.

This is because Washington would inform Pyongyang that the bombing was not aimed at destroying the regime of Kim Jong-il, but merely at destroying its nuclear weapons capacity.

The Australian report coincides with reports from Washington of an alternative US plan which envisages the United States teaming up with China to press for the removal of North Korea's leadership.

The second plan, contained in a classified memo reportedly circulated by Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, argues that Washington's goal should be the collapse of Kim Jong-il's regime.

President George W. Bush's administration has repeatedly said it believed the standoff would be resolved through diplomacy.

The reports come as confusion prevails over statements issued by Pyongyang last week about whether it has begun reprocessing 8,000 spent fuel rods or merely completed preparations to do so.

Western analysts, including those in Washington and in South Korea believe North Korea's initial announcement was a mistranslation and doubt there had been any such reprocessing.

Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer said Tuesday that Canberra also believed Pyongyang's statement claiming it had begun reprocessing the fuel rods had been mistranslated.

Reprocessing the 8,000 fuel rods, which would yield enough plutonium for six nuclear warheads within six months, would be the most provocative step taken by North Korea since the nuclear crisis erupted six months ago.

Downer told ABC radio on Tuesday that the Pentagon undoubtedly had "contingency plans for all sorts of things they could do in North Korea, militarily.

"That's the military's job, to draw up contingency plans, but the American administration strategy, as the President explained to me three weeks ago, is to ensure that there is a successful diplomatic solution here," he added.

"We are just on the threshold of entering into the first round of talks. I don't know how they will go, but in any case we are starting to make a little bit of progress on the diplomatic front and there isn't about to be a bombing campaign."

North Korea, the United States and China are set to sit down in Beijing this week for the first direct high-level talks since the nuclear standoff erupted in October. The talks will open Wednesday and are scheduled to run until Friday. *AFP*

Suharto half-brother imprisoned for fraud

JAKARTA—A court on Tuesday convicted the half brother of Indonesia's ousted dictator Suharto on embezzlement and fraud charges. It sentenced him to four years in prison.

Prosecutors accused Probosutedjo of taking the equivalent of $11.2 million from a state reforestation fund between 1994 to 1997. They say he obtained the money by falsely overstating the size of his timber estate on Borneo island and the number of new trees he had planted.

"The defendant Probosutedjo has been found guilty of committing a crime of corruption," said chief judge Muhamad Saleh. "Therefore, the defendant is sentenced to four years in jail."

The court's verdict included an order for Probosutedjo to repay the amount of the embezzled funds to the state.

Probosutedjo, 72, remains at liberty pending an appeal, which could take months.

He is the second member of Suharto's family to be convicted on criminal charges since the former authoritarian leader was forced to step down amid pro-democracy protests and riots in 1998.

Suharto's son Tommy is serving a 15-year prison term for ordering the murder of a Supreme Court in 2000.

Suharto himself, now 82, has evaded prosecution for alleged massive corruption during his 32-year rule. Doctors have said he is too ill and old to face trial.

During the dictatorship, Suharto's family and business associates accumulated huge personal fortunes through corrupt deals with the state as well as foreign and domestic investors. *AP*

BUILDER AND HIS CITY

The Juscelino Kubitschek Memorial, which honors Brazil's former president, is seen in Brasilia, Brazil, April 21. Kubitschek is considered to be the builder of Brasilia, the capital of Brazil, which was inaugurated April 21, 1960, 43 years ago. AP

2 Bangladesh ferries sink; 100 dead

DHAKA, Bangladesh—Rescue workers have recovered 100 bodies after two ferry boats capsized during tropical storms in different parts of Bangladesh, and the death toll was expected to rise, authorities said Tuesday.

Ninety-five bodies, including those of women and children, were recovered after a double-deck ferry, MV Mitali, went down Monday in the Buriganga River near the Bangladesh capital Dhaka, the Shipping Ministry said.

More than 200 people were still missing from that ferry, and many of them were feared dead. Rescue workers were using huge cranes to lift the sunken boat, where many bodies were believed to be trapped.

Survivors said dark clouds enveloped the river when the storm hit at 6 p.m. on Monday.

Hasina Begum, a school teacher, wept in front of the body of her 2-year-old daughter, Mithila, who died in the accident.

"I could not save my daughter. I've no right to live," said Begum, who was returning to her home in southern Bangladesh after attending a conference in Dhaka. "My little daughter wanted to see Dhaka city."

Bangladesh media reports said the ferry was carrying up to 400 passengers and only a few managed to swim ashore. *AP*

US warns of new global terror threats due to Iraq war

WASHINGTON—The United States said Monday it feared the military defeat of Saddam Hussein's regime had increased the potential for terrorist attacks on US interests overseas and urged Americans around the world to redouble their security precautions.

"Tensions remaining from the recent events in Iraq may increase the potential threat to US citizens and interests abroad, including by terrorist groups," the State Department said in a statement.

"The US government remains deeply concerned about the security of US citizens overseas," it said in a "worldwide caution" that renewed an existing warning issued on March 19 just hours after the Iraq war began.

"US citizens are encouraged to maintain a high level of vigilance and to take appropriate steps to increase their security awareness," it said.

The threats noted in the statement were suicide operations, kidnappings and bombings including attacks that might use non-conventional weapons such as chemical or biological agents.

It also stressed that terrorists and other extremist groups were now likely to target civilian facilities including residential neighborhoods, private clubs, restaurants, places of worship, schools, hotels, outdoor recreation events, resorts and beaches.

"If such facilities cannot be avoided, US citizens should increase their security awareness at such locations," the department said.

Unusually, the global warning, which is not set to expire until September, comes amid signs that the threat against US and western interests may be lessening in some places.

Last week, the State Department said it would allow diplomats who had been ordered to leave Pakistan and Israel over war-related terrorism fears to return to the country.

Those decisions, which kept in place general warnings against US citizens traveling to the two countries, were announced on Thursday, a day after the Department of Homeland Security lowered the domestic terrorist attack alert in the United States from "high" to "elevated."

The domestic alert—introduced after the Sept. 11 attacks on New York and Washington in 2001 blamed on Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network.—had been raised to its second-highest level on March 17, just before the start of the Iraq war. *AFP*

Mahal na Ka Erdy,

Taos puso po ako at ang aking pamilya na bumabati sa paggunita ninyo ng inyong ika-40 taon bilang Tagapamahalang Pangkalahatan ng Iglesia ni Cristo.

Hangad namin na patuloy kayong pagkalooban ng lakas, sigla at karunungan ng Mahal na Panginoon upang lalo pang mapatatag ang Iglesia ni Cristo na naging laganap sa iba't ibang parte ng mundo sa ilalim ng inyong pamamahala.

Nawa'y magsilbing isang kasangkapan at inspirasyon ang okasyong ito upang patuloy na magka-isa ang Iglesia ni Cristo sa pagpapalaganap ng salita ng Diyos.

Muli, maligayang pagbati at nawa'y pagpalain kayo ng Poong Maykapal.

Senadora Tessie Aquino Oreta

ADVT.

Jazz-soul singer Nina Simone, 70

LOS ANGELES/PARIS—Jazz and soul icon Nina Simone, whose smoky tones gave voice to the American civil rights movement and ranged from gospel to George Gershwin, died on Monday at her home in the south of France, her manager said.

She was 70 years old.

Simone, a North Carolina native who spent most of her last decade in France, had been ill for some time, Clifton Henderson told Reuters by telephone.

Among her biggest hits were the playful "My Baby Just Cares For Me," which endeared her to a new generation of fans three decades after its release on her first record in 1957, and an emotional 1959 recording of Gershwin's "I Loves You Porgy."

Her repertoire also included the bitter and furious anti-racist protest song "Mississippi Goddam," inspired by the death of four children in the 1963 Ku Klux Klan bombing of a black church in Birmingham, Alabama, and "Old Jim Crow."

French police said Simone had died early on Monday at her home in Carry-le-Rouet, a small Mediterranean seaside town outside Marseille.

She had lived in a villa there with her chauffeur, a female helper and her pet dog for some four or five years, a Marseille police spokesperson said. Her body was transferred to Marseille.

A child prodigy raised in a family of eight children, Simone studied piano at New York's prestigious Juilliard School of Music, a rare opportunity for a black woman in the 1950s.

She was dubbed the High Priestess of Soul, yet her musical range was enormous and she kept up with the musical times without ever losing her own distinctive voice and classically inspired piano style.

She was equally at home playing the Newport Jazz Festival or Carnegie Hall, and by the mid-60s, she was playing to diverse audiences, ranging from college students to older jazz connoisseurs, while her music cut across racial lines.

During her long career, Simone repeatedly crafted her own versions of other people's songs, giving a fresh sound to material ranging from Leonard Cohen to the Bee Gees. *Reuters*

NINA Simone on a Tel Aviv beach January 1978. AP

Obasanjo wins poll amid outcry

ABUJA/LAGOS—President Olusegun Obasanjo waited on Tuesday to be formally declared the runaway winner of a Nigerian presidential election marred by charges of brazen vote-rigging.

Nigerians are hoping to end decades of instability by successfully transferring power from one elected government to another for the first time. A smooth electoral process would boost the international standing both of Nigeria and Obasanjo.

But mounting allegations of election fraud, following dramatic victories by his ruling party even in opposition strongholds, have been supported by some independent poll observers and have raised fears of violent unrest.

The main opposition party angrily dismissed official results. With votes counted in 725 of 774 areas by 0610 GMT, Obasanjo—a born-again Christian from southern Nigeria—had an unassailable lead with 21.9 million ballots, or 61.3 percent.

Muhammudu Buhari, from the predominantly Muslim north of the world's eighth biggest oil exporter, had 11.7 million votes or 32.6 percent. The other 18 candidates bidding to lead Africa's most populous country of 120 million shared the rest.

"We do not consider this to be an election by any stretch of the imagination," said a spokesman for Buhari's All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP).

The ANPP has called the other 28 opposition parties to a summit in Abuja on Tuesday to discuss their next steps.

Buhari threatened last week to launch "mass action" if there was any rigging in Saturday's voting for president and the country's 36 state governors.

Obasanjo's Peoples Democratic Party also won a landslide in the legislative vote, and went on to sweep 27 of the governorships, according to latest returns. *Reuters*

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Returning OFW victim of SARS rumor

By Carla P. Gomez, *PDI Visayas Bureau*

BACOLOD CITY—An overseas contract worker who had just come home here from Singapore has become a victim of unfounded rumor that she has Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome. Her friends and neighbors have been avoiding her like a plague.

Lea Jamili was forced to call a press conference yesterday with the help of officials in her village to belie that she has SARS.

"I am healthy," Jamili declared, saying officials from the City Health Office had checked her and found that she has no SARS.

"No one has visited me yet since I arrived Friday in Bacolod from Manila, not even my neighbors," lamented Jamili during the press conference held at City Hall.

Jamili, 28, said she did not hide upon her arrival and did not know how the rumor, which she only learned from her family, started.

"I want to clarify matters since I may have difficulty finding employment here if people believe I have been infected with the SARS virus," she added.

News of the possibility that Jamili had SARS broke out early April when City Mayor Luzviminda Valdez told the media that she was checking the report.

Officials of Barangay Taculing headed by Rommel Sanson, chair, said they decided to call a press conference to clarify matters since the residents had been alarmed upon learning that Jamili arrived Friday in the city.

Health officials confirmed that residents of Taculing were afraid of Jamili but they assured the public that she was very healthy and free from the SARS virus.

She was also issued a health card upon her arrival at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

Jamili left for Singapore to work as a domestic worker on Jan. 21 and returned to Manila on March 27. She was a first year computer secretarial student at the Bacolod City College when she applied for a job abroad.

Jamili said she developed coughs in Singapore from perspiration due to the hard work she was doing. She said she did all the household work, including taking care of her employer's dog.

"My employer is a nurse at the National University Hospital in Singapore, she said, and she was concerned about my health because she checked me up," she said.

Jamili said she decided to come home because she was suffering from depression due to homesickness. However, she added, another reason she came home was to avoid being infected by SARS which has affected many Singaporeans.

Negros Occidental Rep. Jose Apolinario Lozada yesterday urged the government to help OFWs in countries with SARS deaths who are planning to return to the Philippines to escape the contagious disease.

Air passengers snub SARS questionnaire in Tacloban

By Joey A. Gabieta,
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—The new "Task Force: SARS" created by the health department in Eastern Visayas is facing cold, if not adverse, reactions from incoming passengers at the Daniel Z. Romualdez Airport.

Dr Jaime Opinion, city health officer who heads the task force, said the majority of the passengers refused to take the questionnaire handed to them. Some even berated the task force members who approached them.

Lydia Yu, a city health office (CHO) employee, narrated that she got a scolding from a woman passenger who declined to take the questionnaire given to her. "I have to run to her just for her to answer our questionnaire only to be cursed by her," she said.

Taiwanese

A group of Taiwanese working on an infrastructure project in the region, however, readily agreed to answer the questionnaires, she said. Taiwan is one of the countries in Asia with SARS cases.

The six-member task force was created two weeks ago with the CHO as the lead agency. The regional offices of the DOH and the Air Transportation Office are part of the task force.

It was first implemented at the DZR Airport last April 15.

Opinion said the task force was created to ensure that no cases of SARS would find their way into Eastern Visayas.

Safety measures

He said all international entry points in the country, notably the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, have set up safety measures against the entry of SARS cases in the country but this was not enough.

He explained that a passenger found to be negative of all the signs and symptoms of the killer pneumonia at his arrival at the Naia might later develop the signs and symptoms of SARS during his or her stay in the region. "Remember that SARS has an incubation period of 14 days," he said.

Only passengers who came from abroad, especially those that have reported SARS cases, are asked to answer the questionnaire, Opinion said.

The questionnaire asks for the name of the passenger, his flight of origin and his place of destination in the region.

This way, he said, if the passenger develops the signs and symptoms of SARS, it will be easy for them to track him down and bring him right away to the Eastern Visayas Regional Medical Center, where two isolation rooms have been set up.

Hostile reactions

With hostile reactions from the passengers, Opinion had asked the cooperation of airlines flying into the region.

Philippine Airlines and Cebu Pacific have regular flights at the DZR Airport. PAL flies three times a day to the city and Cebu Pacific, twice a day.

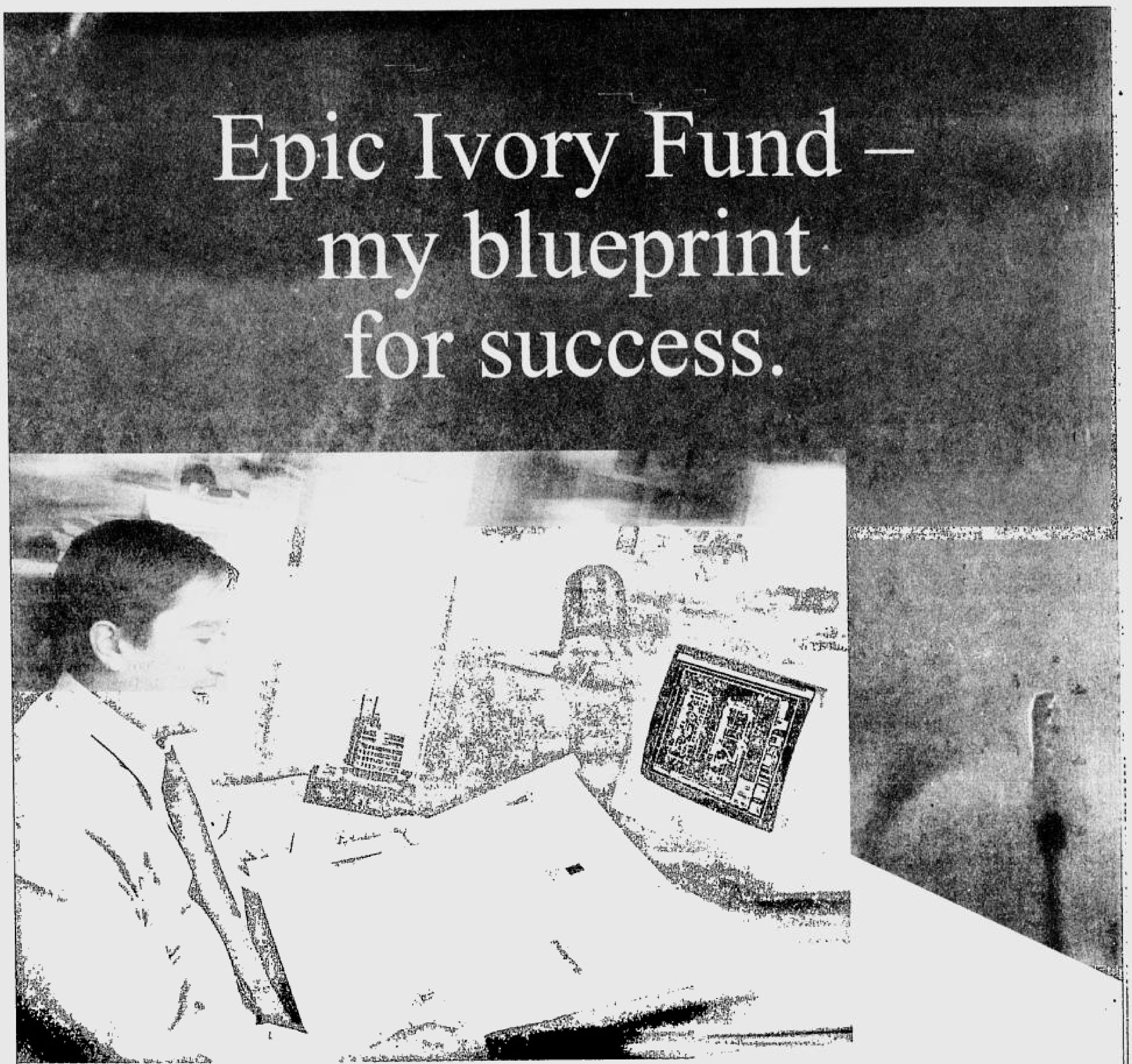
Opinion said the passengers' attitude could be avoided if the airlines would inform them that they would be answering a questionnaire related to SARS when they arrive here.

"What is happening right now is that the members of the task force have to personally ask the incoming passengers as to their flight origin and for them to fill up our questionnaire," he said.

He admitted that they could not force the passengers if they refused to take their questionnaires.

Lydia Mutia of the Cebu Pacific office in the city, however said in a telephone interview that while the objective of the task force was "laudable," they could not ask their passengers to take the questionnaire.

"Our company has yet to draw up a guideline for this . . . asking the passengers to fill up a questionnaire. We do respect the privacy of our passengers," Mutia said.



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Moro women to meet today to help end conflict in South

COTABATO CITY—Thousands of Muslim women from all over Mindanao will converge in Marawi City today to discuss how they can help end the decades-old conflict on the island.

Saguira Pendaliday, chairperson of the First Bangsamoro Women Assembly, said the participants were expected to formulate solutions to the conflict that has already claimed hundreds of thousands of lives since the late 60s.

At the end of the gathering, a document containing the solutions will be finalized and later presented to President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Efforts to end the decades-old Moro rebellion started as early as the 1970s during the Marcos regime, but in all the talks, Moro women were always been on the sidelines.

Although they claim that they were the most affected, Moro women say they were seldom consulted in the peace process, including the one involving the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF).

The MNLF signed a peace deal with the government in 1996.

Pendaliday said the participants would also tackle ideas that could help end immediately the fresh wave of violence that hit North Cotabato, Maguindanao, Sultan Kudarat and Lanao del Sur.

The skirmishes occurred when the military's Feb. 11 assault on the stronghold of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) in the Liguasan Marsh area.

Since the new wave of violence began, about 100,000 people have been displaced, with more than half of them still staying in various refugee centers.

Pendaliday said that even before the actual assembly, Moro women had already established that only the implementation of a genuine ceasefire would end the renewed hostilities, which had already claimed more than 300 lives, including those of civilians.

"We are asking government and rebel negotiators to resume the talks because their fighting has severely affected innocent civilians," she said.

Maj. Gen. Generoso Senga, head of the Army's 6th Infantry Division, said the resumption of hostilities should be blamed on the MILF.

He said the military was only responding to threats posed by the rebel group on civilian communities. *Rosa-May de Guzman, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Army official asks local execs supporting rebels to resign

LEGAZPI CITY—A top Army officer has warned local government executives in the region against supporting the New People's Army and asked them to resign should they be found doing so.

Col. Pedrito Magsino, commander officer of the 202nd Infantry Brigade based in Villahermosa, Daraga, Albay, made the warning following a recent clash between government troops and NPA rebels on Thursday last week that resulted in the death of five Army soldiers and the wounding of nine others.

Magsino said he had talked with some local officials, especially in Sorsogon, who were reported to have strong support to "lawless elements like the NPA."

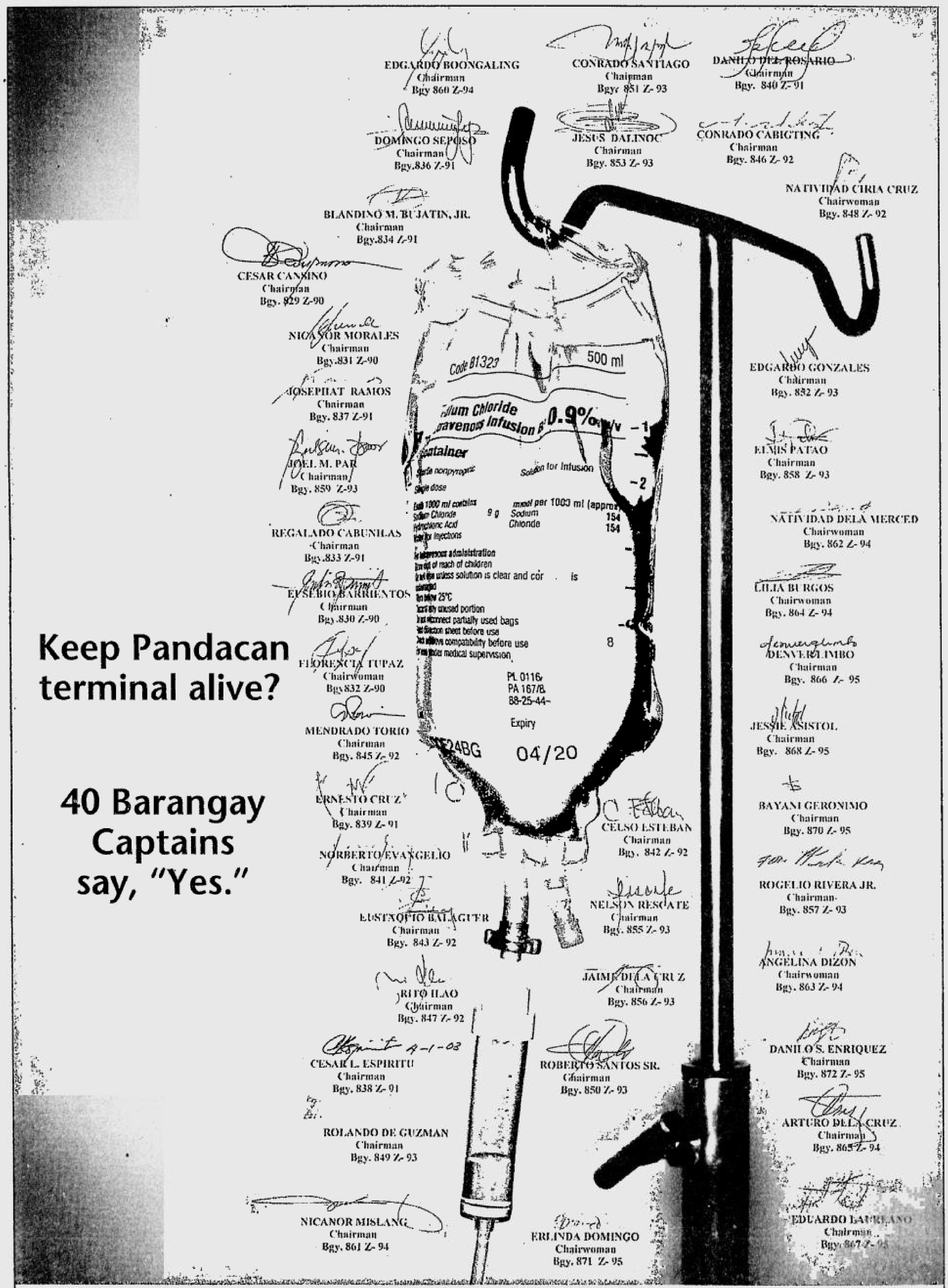
He refused to name them but added that in Sorsogon, the supporters were not only barangay officials but also those in higher positions.

"I told them that they better stop. This will not bring any good things to our people. They should understand, they are accountable to the situation," Magsino said.

The military will always coordinate with the local officials, especially in far-flung barangays, in delivering basic services to the community, he said.

"All of us should work to attain our objective of bringing the lasting peace and progress to their areas," Magsino stressed. "But we will never allow any local official to coddle rebels. If they cannot stop supporting our enemy, they better resign!"

He confirmed that even mayors and governors were giving favors to the "enemies of the government." *Ronnie Lorejo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*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40 Barangay Captains say, "Yes."
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CALTEX
PETRON

Ombudsman urged: Relieve Davao Or. gov

MATI, Davao Oriental—The Ombudsman for Mindanao was asked to suspend Gov. Maria Elena Palma Gil and her daughter-board member Maria Consuelo because their continued presence in the capitol was allegedly threatening witnesses in the graft charges filed against them.

Radioman Raul Antopuesto and former Palma Gil aide Rosie Bajenting said the Palma Gils are the most influential people in the province and witnesses were afraid to come out for fear of reprisal.

The governor and her daughter have been accused of stealing government money by maintaining ghost employees.

The Palma Gils have denied any wrongdoing. Lawyer Alejandro Aquino, speaking on behalf of the governor, said the charges appeared to be politically motivated, but he did not elaborate.

In their appeal to the Ombudsman early this month, Antopuesto and Bajenting said the suspension would prevent the governor and her daughter from "tampering with or concealing public records and from coercing witnesses which they can possibly do as they are the most powerful and influential people in Davao Oriental.

Bajenting, a close relative of the Palma Gils, said she could attest to the credibility of the graft charges.

"At times, Board Member Palma Gil would have me deposit the salaries of these ghost employees in her savings account ... ," she said in an earlier statement accompanying the complaint filed last month.

Antopuesto, who works with Manila Broadcasting Co., said a number of employees in the provincial government were willing to support the complaint.

"But they said their lives were being threatened, they were already being threatened by these powerful people in Davao Oriental. *Ferdinand Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Bishop asked to apologize over 'jueteng'

ILAGAN, Isabela—Members of the provincial board have asked Bishop Ramon Villena of Nueva Vizcaya to apologize to Faustino Dy after the Church leader accused the governor of influencing the resurgence of jueteng in the province.

The board members, in a resolution, said Villena should apologize to Dy "more so, in the propriety and humaneness of recognizing the innocence of (Governor Dy) as to his allegations."

They dismissed Villena's accusations that Dy was involved in jueteng operations and demanded that "efforts be earnestly made by the grace of the good bishop, to immediately clear (Dy's) name."

The INQUIRER tried but failed to reach Villena for comment. A staff member at the bishop's house in Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya, said Villena was out of town on Tuesday.

Last month, Villena accused Dy and Chief Supt. Romulo Sales, Cagayan Valley police director, of putting pressure on top police officials of Nueva Vizcaya to allow the return of the illegal numbers game in the province.

The bishop said this had forced Senior Supt. Jesus Manubay, provincial police director, to allow jueteng operations in the province.

Dy dismissed Villena's allegation and even threatened to sue the bishop for libel.

Senior Board Member Ysmael Atienza, the resolution's sponsor, said Dy "(has no time) to engage in some clandestine activities, such as dealings in jueteng operations, much more in a place like Nueva Vizcaya," due to his development projects in the province.

"The statements of the bishop are libelous in character as these were released without regard to the sensibilities of (Dy) as a very hardworking and honest government official," the resolution said. *Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Probe of ₱130-M Iloilo housing project urged

By Ma. Diosa Labiste
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Four city councilors have asked the Office of the Ombudsman (OMB)-Visayas to evaluate its findings that the city's P130-million housing project was fraught with irregularities.

The officials decided to submit their investigation report to the OMB-Visayas based in Cebu City after the city council voted it down last week.

By a vote of 6-5 with one abstention, the council on April 9 rejected the report of the Committee on Good Government regarding alleged irregularities on the housing project.

The committee members, headed by Councilor Raul Gonzalez Jr., said they decided to submit their report to the Ombudsman on Monday for evaluation.

Joining Gonzalez were Councilors Ma. Concordia Manikan, Antonio Pesina and Erwin Plagata.

The 106-page committee report had identified irregularities in the 413-unit housing project intended for city government employees.

The housing project stands on the city-owned lot at Barangay Ungka, Pavia town, 9 km from here, and was built using funds from bonds floated by the city government.

The committee started its investigation in September last year when one of the subcontractors, Rudy Gonzales, alleged that the main contractor, Ace Builders Enterprises (ABE), had been using sub-standard construction materials.

Emboldened by Gonzales' move, seven more subcontractors filed a complaint before the city council confirming Gonzales' claim.

They added that ABE failed to release their payment and construction materials on time, causing delays in the project.

The city engineers said the contractor used 0.30 mm instead of 0.45 mm thick corrugated galvanized iron for roofing; used 3/16" instead of 1/4 thick plywood for ceiling, used 1/2" x 12" instead of 1" x 12" lumber and 9 mm instead of 10 mm diameter stirrups on beams.

They also noted "poor workmanship" on the wall finish, installation of jalousies, roofing, gutter and tiles on the bathroom and kitchen of the newly built houses. The pipes leading to septic tanks and faucets were not properly installed.

During its regular session in April, the city council rejected the committee report blacklisting ABE "until further investigation."

But it approved a resolution rescinding the contract between the city government and ABE.

The committee report also asked for a review of the contract on the housing project, and enforcement of administrative sanction against some personnel of the city engineer's office and members of the Prequalification, Bids and Award Committee (PBAC) for their "failure to protect public interest."

It called for the investigation of former Mayor Mansueto Malabor and members of the previous city council, especially former Councilors Jose Junio Jacela, Eddie Laczi and German Gonzales, "for their role in the planning, approval and execution" of the housing project. The three were members of the PBAC.

The housing project was carried out with a "design and construct" scheme, wherein the contractor, not the city government, drew up the project design. The council approved the scheme on Nov. 17, 1999.

Several PBAC members, like former city treasurer Romeo Manikan and Ely Bagtasus of the city engineer's office, said the "design and construct" scheme was disadvantageous to the city but they either dropped out of succeeding meetings or were won over by those in favor the scheme.

The committee report showed that the previous council approved the contract with ABE on Jan. 31, 2001, without even seeing the actual document with the signatures of Malabor and ABE representatives, and the attachments.

Two months later, the council approved a "deed of agreement of deposit accounts to the city" assigning its Internal Revenue Allotment and other collateral to pay for its bonds, ratifying the trust indenture, guaranty and underwriting agreements without seeing the notarized document but only the draft.

Less than a month after ABE started the construction, the city engineer's office started to notice poor workmanship in the housing units.

ROUNDUP

Rebels raid sugar mill

PORAC, Pampanga—About 30 New People's Army (NPA) rebels raided a mill here of the country's biggest international sugar trading firm on April 14, police said. The attackers took two .38 cal. revolvers, three shotguns and five hand-held radios from Sweet Crystals Integrated Sugar Mills Corp. in Barangay Planas, according to Senior Supt. Rodolfo Mendoza, provincial police director. It took the rebels only 10 minutes to disarm the mill's security guards, a company official told the INQUIRER. *Tonette Orejas and Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Rebel's body exhumed

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Army soldiers last week exhumed the remains of a communist rebel executed by the New People's Army (NPA) in 2001 on suspicion that he was a military spy. Soldiers of the Army's 71st Infantry Battalion dug up the remains of Robert Figuracion near a suspected NPA camp at Barangay San Roque in Lupao, Nueva Ecija. Col. Jovenal Narcise, chief of the Army's 702nd Infantry Brigade, said Christopher Arquines, an NPA rebel who was captured on April 12 in Cuyapo town, led soldiers to the camp and the burial site. Narcise said Arquines, alias Ka Argy or Jerry, claimed that Figuracion, of Barangay Tayabo in San Jose City, was abducted on Nov. 16, 2001 and "summarily executed" by the NPA's Nueva Ecija provincial committee's Front 3.

Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Unrest at PIA

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Unrest has gripped the Public Information Agency in Central Luzon after Renato Velasco, PIA director general, bared the plan to abolish the agency's regional and provincial offices in Central Luzon to streamline the bureaucracy and cut on costs. "This development has come as a shock to us especially since your earlier directive was towards the opposite direction—that of strengthening the regional offices and deactivating provincial information centers," the 34 employees of the PIA regional office said in an appeal to Velasco last week. They urged Velasco to reconsider the "deactivation" plan, saying it posed adverse consequences to the agency's program in a "growth center" region.

Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Fake doctor nabbed

LIPA CITY—Police have arrested an abortionist who posed as a doctor, after a woman complained that her baby whom the doctor was supposed to treat had been kept away from her since a hydrocephalus operation last month. The woman later found that her baby was already dead. Arrested was a certain Aida Sawali, of Barangay Inosluban, on charges of kidnapping, serious illegal detention, infanticide, illegal practice of medicine, estafa and extortion. An entrapment operation revealed Sawali's illegal practice.

Mei Magsino, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

SARS-free

CALAPAN CITY—"Mindoro is SARS-free," declared provincial police director Voltaire Calzado after clearing the information from the Calapan City Coast guard that a yacht of non-quarantined Chinese were going to Puerto Galera four days ago. The Philippine Ports Authority, Puerto Galera police and all chairs of barangays along the shoreline who were immediately alerted on the news said no such yacht was sighted in Puerto Galera.

Madonna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Wanted man falls

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—Police arrested the 14th "most notorious" criminal in the Calabarzon area last Wednesday. Police identified the suspect as Marvin Retuerma, who was nabbed in Tagumpay Resort, Pansol, Calamba City, at 12:30 a.m. Reports showed that Retuerma was the principal suspect in the murder of Ronald Opena on March 12, 2000 at Barangay Tandang Kotyo, Tanay, Rizal.

Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Illegal recruiters

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Police on Monday arrested two women on charges of illegal recruitment. The suspects, Verna Derequito and Julanie Pactol, were the subjects of an arrest warrant issued by Judge Eddie Rojas of the Regional Trial Court Branch 37 here. Police were still tracking down Derequito's husband Zaldy, alleged owner of an unlicensed recruitment agency. The couple, along with Pactol, had allegedly been recruiting jobseekers in the South Cotabato-Sarangani-General Santos (Socsargen) area for non-existent jobs abroad. Pactol told reporters that she had received money from one of the victims, but added that she was not aware it was intended as placement fee.

Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau

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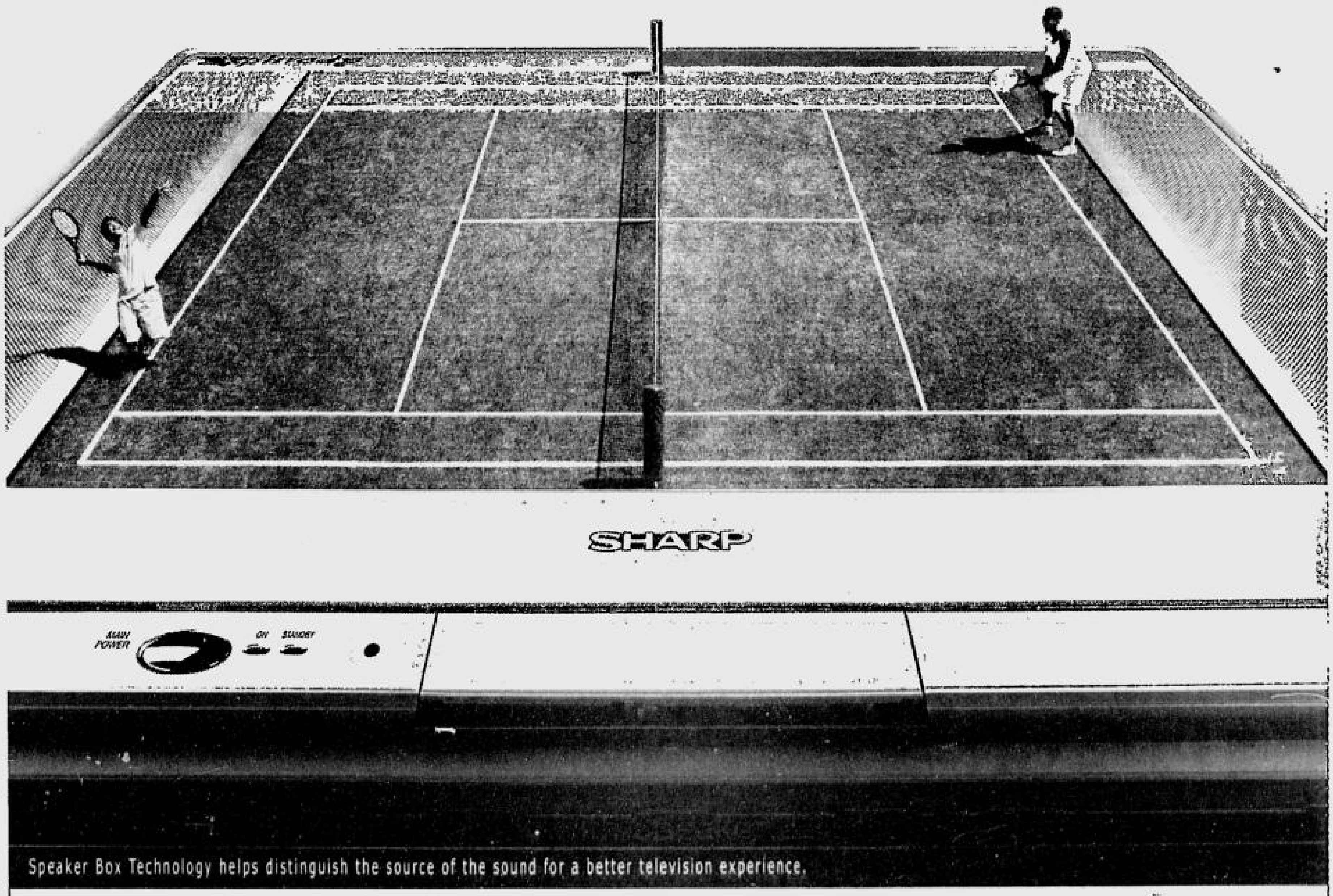

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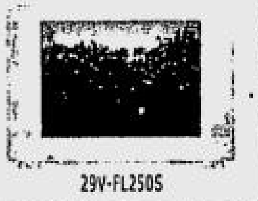

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A feast to celebrate the bounty of the sea

By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes
Lingayen, Pangasinan

LONG before Filipinos developed a penchant to celebrate every produce or product in their towns through festivals, Pangasinan's capital town of Lingayen has been celebrating the bounty of the sea.

Historians say the Pista'y Dayat (sea festival) started in the early 1960s with simple thanksgiving rites by fishermen in two villages in Lingayen.

The fishermen would go to the beach on May 1 to say a prayer of thanks to God for the plentiful harvests all year long. Then they took a dip at the sea, which they believed had miraculous healing property. They would later partake of simple meals, all derived from the sea.

It is not clear why May 1 was chosen to be the day, but it could be because it was Labor Day and a holiday, old folks say. For many workers and their families, it was an opportunity to beat the summer heat by frolicking on the beach.

Besides, fishermen are laborers, too, and because the Lingayen Gulf has always been generous to them, they find it fitting to offer thanksgiving prayers for its bounty.

It was not long before local officials saw the affair's potential to lure tourists and started to line up activities to make their stay happy and memorable.

The residents and their guests will again rendezvous with the sea this Labor Day. For them, it is a summer tryst, a promise that must be kept with the sea which is never selfish with its resources.

But it's no longer a one-day event. The Pista'y Dayat has evolved into the country's biggest and longest beach party that started on April 14 and will end on May 9.

The gulf continues to nurture the province and its neighbors, and although its resources are fast being depleted, according to studies, the people continue to celebrate the sea festival. Besides, the gulf occasionally surprises them when giant sea creatures like whale sharks and dolphins show up, stay for some days, and quietly disappear.

Gov. Victor Agbayani has given the green light for the inclusion of more features as part of the provincial government's efforts to promote local tourism.

The festivities started with the opening of the Tianggehan sa Pista'y Dayat that featured various products on the capitol grounds. The Panangidayew Agro; Trade, Tourism and Seafood Fair opens today and will run up to May 2, also at the capitol grounds.

Various activities will be undertaken daily until May 9, but the grand opening is on April 28 at the capitol plaza. It will be marked by the "Ating Yaman" photography contest, the "Pinta Ko, Alay Ko" exhibition, a scroll painting competition, a drum and lyre contest and wall climbing on the beach front.

The April 30 revelry will start with the "Buhay sa Buhangin Sculptures by the Gulf," followed by the Palaro ng Lahi. It will be capped by the pageant and coronation night of the Limgas na Dayat (Muse of the Sea) 2003 at the Narciso Ramos Sports and Cultural Center.

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Manila - Butuan v.v.	3,239	2,569	20%
Manila - Cagayan de Oro v.v.	3,239	2,549	21%
Manila - Dumaguete v.v.	2,569	2,049	20%
Manila - Puerto Princesa v.v.	2,499	2,049	18%
Manila - Cebu v.v.	2,569	2,049	20%
Manila - Tacloban v.v.	2,569	2,099	18%
Manila - Bacolod v.v.	2,449	2,049	16%
Manila - Iloilo v.v.	2,449	2,049	16%
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Skyliner (Cebu)	(032) 231-2113
Ramar Services (Dumaguete)	(035) 225-6850
Maves Group Services (Iloilo)	(033) 329-4660
Jonar Resources Inc. (Kalibo)	(036) 268-7264
Jonar Resources Inc. (Roxas)	(036) 621-0307
Summit World (Tacloban)	(053) 325-7747 to 48
East Asia Ticketing Services (Palawan)	(048) 433-5541

MINDANAO	
Marian Air Inc. (Butuan)	(085) 341-8879
Summit World (Davao)	(082) 224-0961 to 62
Summit World (Cagayan)	(08822) 726-698
Summit World (Zamboanga)	(062) 993-1166

Discovering Ilocos Sur in a dining yacht

By Frank Cimatu
Candon City

ILOCOS Sur is known for its ancestral houses, churches done in the distinct earthquake baroque style, tiny Vigan *longganizas* (sausages), sticky rice desserts like Candon *kalamay* and Royal *bibingka* and *empanadas*. Otherwise, the province is one long stretch of road as one cruises toward the white beach of Pagudpud, Ilocos Norte, for example.

DAYTOY TI AMIANAN

Unknown to most travelers, Ilocos Sur has some of the unspoiled and interesting beaches in Northern Luzon, which can be seen on the left side of the 150-kilometer stretch of the Maharlika Highway, from Ilocos Sur to Ilocos Norte.

One wouldn't have known it but the beaches of Sinait, Sta. Lucia, Santa and Candon towns are among the best that the country can offer. And because one passes through them without knowing it, they are as unspoiled as when Juan de Salcedo or Limahong had set foot on them.

Be your own conquistador as you try the Ilocandia coastal cruise, relaxing by the South China Sea aboard an oil tanker refurbished into a dining yacht.

Ilocos Sur Rep. Eric Singson and a group of friends decided this year to bring the "Tennessee Walker," which brings tourists from the Manila Bay to Corregidor Island to Ilocos Sur, in the hope that tourists will also discover the province's coastline.

"I would not have wanted this but if this is the only way to attract tourists, why not?" Singson said.

The Tennessee Walker used to be the oil tanker Peatheray G-I until it was given a makeover in 1992 and remodeled into a luxury cruise ship that can accommodate 250 passengers.

The MacArthur (top deck) can accommodate 150 people, while the air-conditioned Admiral Dewey Room can fit in 100 passengers.

Singson had an agreement with the Tennessee Walker owner that the yacht would stay in Ilocos from October to June and return to Manila Bay the rest of the year.

Four-hour trip

The cruise starts at Singson's resort at the Santiago Cove and the four-hour ride will take visitors to the coast of San Esteban and back. It is a picturesque view of Ilocandia as the ship passes along coconut groves and quaint villages.

Passengers can sing "Moon River" or listen to a *rondalla* by the open deck, or dine in style at the Dewey.

"We want to assure you that the food will be the highlight of the cruise," said Robby Goco, the cruise consultant on food and beverages.

Goco, who owns Tequila Joe in Metro Manila, decided to use ingredients found only in the Candon public market and in the smaller town markets in the province.

For only P200, a guest can mix 75 different ingredients from tuna, seaweed, *bihon* (noodles), mushrooms, vegetables, native chicken, pork, beef, Vigan *longganiza*, *bagnet* and many others, mix them with 20 different sauces and have them cooked in the gas-powered oven.

The tuxedoed waiters can also bring guests red wine and other drinks.

In fact, it was the romantic notion of the cruise that prompted Singson to come out with a sunset cruise, but he finally decided to scrap it because the coastline would be too dark to be appreciated anyway.

The sunset cruise was later modified so that the guests could return to port at sunset.

Lunch and dinner cruises from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. cost P350 per person, while sightseeing cruises starting 8 a.m. cost P100 per person. Weddings, class reunions and other chartered cruises can also be arranged.

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From page A1

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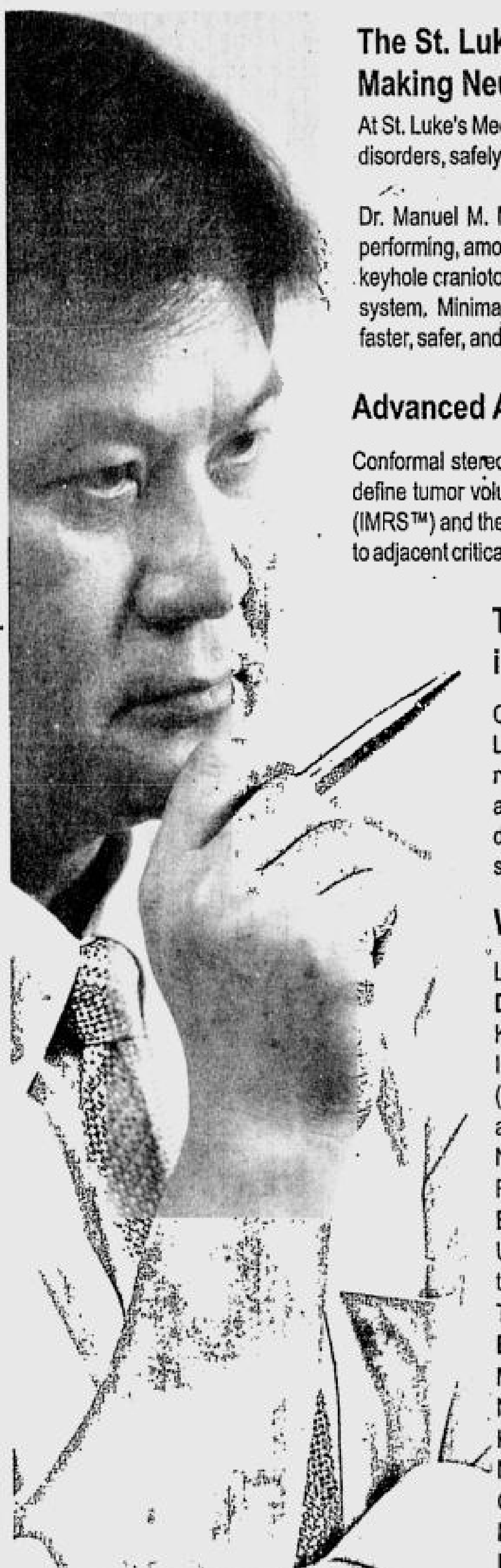

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Commitment to patient care inspires St. Luke's Medical Center to constantly improve every aspect of diagnosis and treatment. The St. Luke's Comprehensive Brain Tumor Center gathers specialists from neurosurgery, neurology, medical oncology, radiation oncology, neuroradiology, nuclear medicine, neuropathology, psychiatry, pain management, and nursing. A revolution in the interdisciplinary approach to the management of brain and spinal cord tumors in the Philippines, the St. Luke's Comprehensive Brain Tumor Center delivers complete, coordinated, quality healthcare to adult and pediatric cancer patients who deserve nothing less than world-class service.

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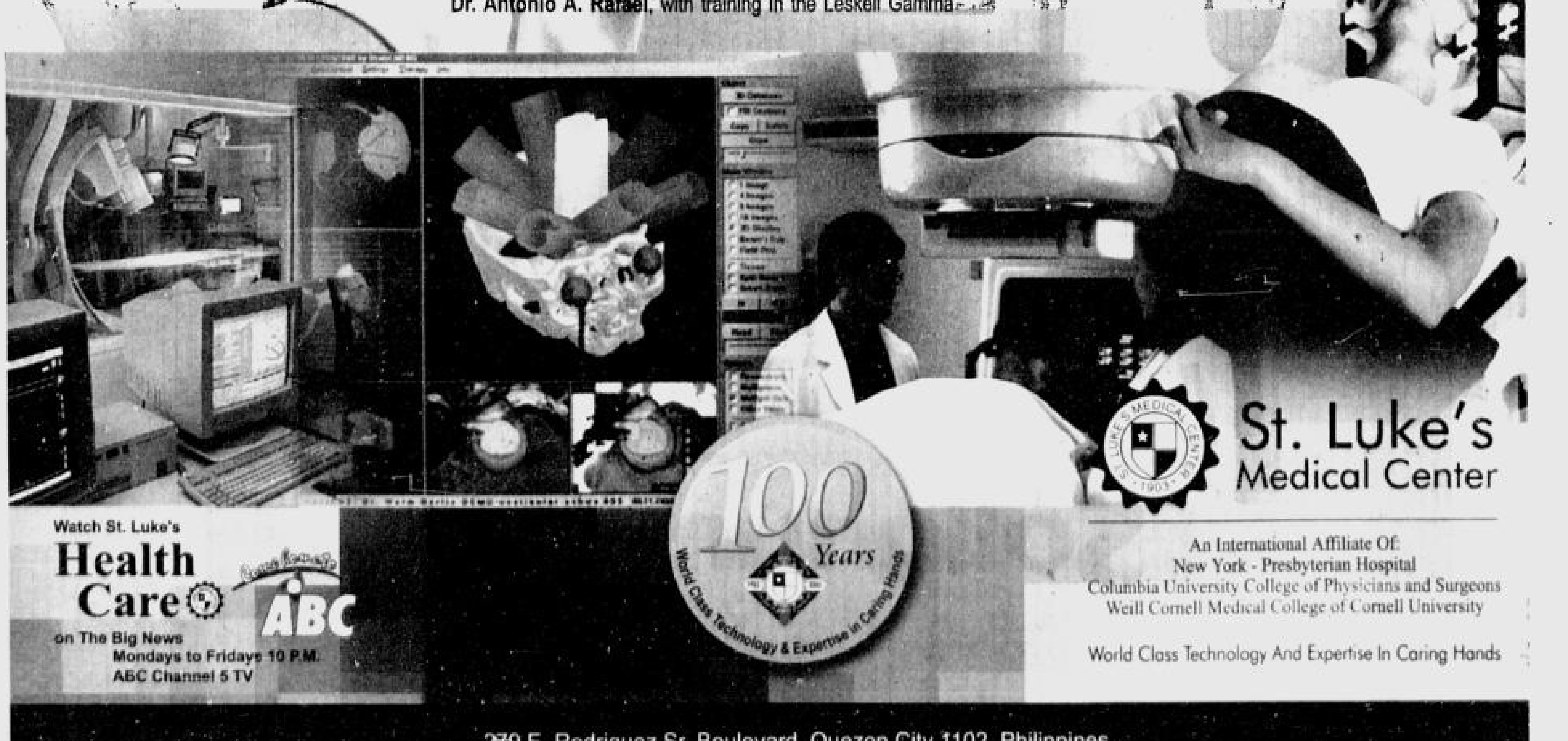
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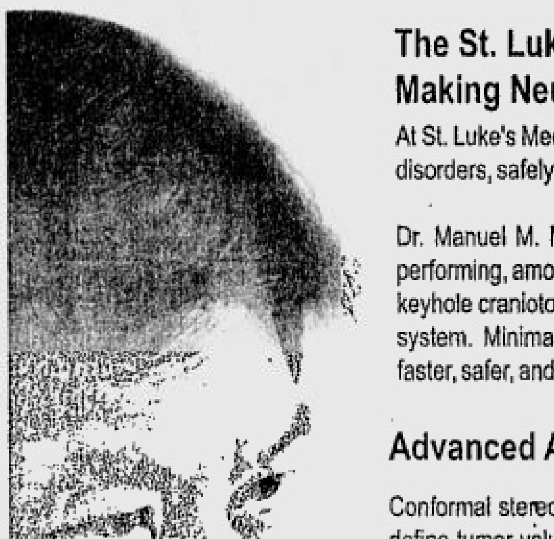

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11 more die of SARS in China, 5 in HK, 1 in Malaysia

From page A1

es stood at 918.

The central government has sent more medical teams to affected areas amid growing fears that the virus rocking Beijing will sweep the country. Authorities have raised the the number of probable SARS cases in Beijing 13-fold in the past two days from 44 to 482, with another 610 suspected cases.

More worrying for the central government are figures showing that the illness was spreading from Sichuan province in the southwest to Liaoning in the northeast. Nineteen of China's 31 provinces and municipalities have reported SARS cases.

WHO's dire prediction was reinforced by Premier Wen Jiabao, who admitted that the health system was ill prepared to deal with a SARS epidemic in the countryside, where 70 percent of China's 1.3 billion people live.

Such an epidemic could spread "before we know it" and "the consequences could be too dreadful to contemplate," the Chinese premier said in a speech published on Monday.

WHO medical officer Jeff McFarland on Tuesday said that while the reporting system was now working better, China must also establish the places where SARS patients had gone to since their infection. Only then could the central government develop better epidemic control measures, he said.

Where, how, why

"The date of onset is the most important figure to understand the epidemic better," MacFarland said. "Where, how, why, when the patients came down, the demographics of a person. This can tell us a lot about how the epidemic is spreading. This is the data that we need to get a better sense of the magnitude of the epidemic," he said.

The Communist Party boss in Beijing has directed city officials to step up the tracing of people who might have been exposed to the highly contagious respiratory illness and to report promptly and accurately.

"Do a good job of analyzing statistics, effectively control and cut off the source of infection," Liu Qi was quoted as saying by newspapers.

There is no cure, vaccine or approved diagnostic test yet for SARS, but Chinese health authorities said they were planning to mass produce a fast SARS test kit.

The method, called the Enzyme Link Immuno Adsorbent Assay, could detect the SARS virus within an hour, Yang Huanming, director of the Beijing Genomics Institute, was quoted as saying by the Xinhua news agency.

Yang said the current estimated daily production of the test kit could meet the demands of 10,000 people, and the output is expected to grow to 100,000 a day soon.

Quarantine measures appeared to be paying off in Hong Kong's fight against SARS and its leader voiced growing confidence about beating the disease. But experts said Tuesday it was unclear when the crisis would end.

"My prediction is in three months' time Hong Kong can return to almost normal, not completely normal," said Dr. Lo Wing-lok, president of the Hong Kong Medical Association.

Lo, an infectious disease expert who also serves as a lawmaker, told The Associated Press that he expected that by then, SARS would be mostly contained, but Hong Kong "might see sporadic cases."

Hong Kong took a step toward normalcy Tuesday as 200,000 secondary students returned to class after a three-week precautionary school closure. But the students and teachers were told to wear surgical masks and have their temperatures taken daily. Younger students were still staying home, and a few schools refused to open. *Reports from AP, AFP and Reuters*

Erap wants Pimentel as witness

From page A1

owner of the controversial account in Equitable PCIBank. The envelope was opened in the presence of Pimentel, then-Ombudsman Aniano Desierto and others.

"Hopefully, Senator Pimentel will testify," Estrada told the INQUIRER the other day.

At the Senate, Pimentel said he was prepared to do so. "I am willing to be a witness for the defense. Of course, I'll go there if I'll be subpoenaed by the court," he said.

Estrada said the 11-10 vote to keep the envelope closed during his impeachment trial "triggered the walkout" of House prosecutors and eventually led to the massive demonstrations at the Edsa Shrine that resulted in his ouster.

"After that walkout I was charged in the streets. But days after they (the Macapagal administration) grabbed power, the second envelope was opened and revealed the name of Jaime Dichaves," he said.

Pimentel issued a caveat: He said he would testify only on the issue of the envelope. "I will tell the truth (about) what I saw in the envelope. Maybe I can produce a copy of the content of the envelope."

He said the envelope contained deposit and withdrawal slips related to the Velarde account.

Estrada is accused of having maintained the Velarde account using an alias to hide alleged ill-gotten wealth, including kickbacks, commissions and "jueteng" payola collections.

Key evidence?

Estrada's court-appointed lawyers have cited one of the documents from the envelope as a key piece of evidence proving that Dichaves, not their client, owned the Velarde account.

They referred to an Aug. 25, 1999 letter purportedly signed by Dichaves asking then EPCIB senior vice president Romy Dy Tang to open an account under the name "Jose Velarde" at the bank's Binondo branch.

Estrada complained that when this letter was discovered inside the second envelope, the media did not give it the same prominence as it had other major developments leading to his downfall.

Told of Estrada's plans involving Pimentel, Noel Malaya, one of his court-appointed lawyers, confirmed that matters relating to the second envelope would indeed constitute "our first evidence" to be presented in court.

"We believe we will score big on this one," he said, welcoming the senator's inclusion as a potential defense witness.

But human rights lawyer Romulo Capulong, a private complainant during the impeachment trial, questioned the authenticity of the Dichaves letter, saying it might have been "surreptitiously inserted" as a last-ditch ploy to get Estrada off the hook.

The Estrada trial at the Sandiganbayan is currently in a lull after state prosecutors rested their case last April 9.

Also at the Sandiganbayan yesterday, state prosecutors pressed for the sequestration of the so-called "Boracay mansion," a P142-million property believed to have been purchased with Estrada's ill-gotten wealth.

Upon their request, the court summoned a broadcast reporter who saw an alleged proof of Estrada's ownership of the mansion—a tag under an old carpet bearing his name as the buyer.

ABS-CBN's Mariton Pacheco was subpoenaed for being the first to find the tag during the court's March 19 inspection of the now abandoned residence in New Manila, Quezon City. Pacheco is expected to present video footage of the carpet tag in court today.

Estrada has never denied that his family by ex-starlet Laarni Enriquez occupied the mansion for a few months in 2000. He has insisted, however, that the house was owned by Dichaves, who merely lent it to him.

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2 rights activists...

From page A1

cial coordinators of the peasant-worker group Anakpawis in Oriental Mindoro, and Virgilio Catoy, a member of the Gawad CCP awardee audio-visual group ST-Exposure for the stirring video documentary "Alingawngaw ng mga Punlo." They were found hogtied on a road in a remote barangay of Bongabong town at around 2 a.m. yesterday.

The five were part of an 11-member quick reaction team (QRT) of human rights advocates led by Karapatan-ST that went to Oriental Mindoro on Black Saturday to look into new reports of abduction allegedly perpetrated by the military in Barangay Buong Lupa, Gloria town.

Favorite colonel

The Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) and Karapatan blamed President Macapagal-Arroyo's "favorite colonel" for the deaths of the two human rights leaders.

The two groups pointed to Col. Jovito Palparan, head of the 204th Infantry Brigade of the Philippine Army, as the one responsible for the deaths of Marcellana and Gumanoy. Bayan and Karapatan called Palparan "the notorious Butcher of Mindoro."

"The killings must stop before the blood of more human rights advocates and activists is forcibly shed at the altar of President Arroyo's 'strong republic,'" said Marie Hilao Enriquez, Karapatan national secretary general.

Palparan denied the allegations. "The accusations are all baseless and unfounded. But that's nothing new because every time there are incidents like this, they always blame the military," he told the INQUIRER in a cellular phone interview from Fort Bonifacio.

Marcellana came into prominence last year after exposing human rights abuses in Southern Tagalog, especially in Oriental Mindoro, which she claimed were perpetrated by the military.

In an earlier interview in Lucena City last Holy Week at the kick off of the "People's Calvary" caravan, Marcellana said 1,019 cases of human rights violations had been recorded in Southern Tagalog since the ascent to power of Ms Macapagal.

"In her three-year term, 64 have already been killed. But instead of facilitating a fair and impartial trial against the main suspect, Col. Jovito Palparan was promoted to a star-general," Marcellana said.

Orly Marcellana, Eden's husband and secretary general of Kasama-TK, said their children, Danna Marie, 7, and Ara, 6, were now asking for the whereabouts of their mother. He said the last time they contacted his wife on a cell phone, their eldest daughter advised her to be careful as she might get into trouble.

Edwin Alog, Bayan-ST deputy secretary general, said members of Marcellana's group were abducted at about 7 p.m. on Monday in Barangay Maibon in Naujan.

Alsa Masa

Alog said the abductors introduced themselves as members of an anti-communist group called Alsa Masa. "But we believed that just like the notorious 'Bonnet Gang' in the area, members of the group belong to the military," he said.

Alsa Masa is an anti-communist vigilante group that started in Davao during the time of former President Corazon Aquino.

Asked if there was an Alsa Masa group in the province, Palparan said: "The people in the area have long been fed up with the terrorist and extortion activities of the New People's Army. And these leftist groups were known coddlers and supporters of the communist rebels."

"The people are now angry with the likes of Marcellana's group. *Makulit sila* (They're irritating)," he said without elaborating.

Palparan condoled with the families of the victims, adding they would assist the police in solving the crime.

Based on accounts of several witnesses, Marcellana and 10 others human rights activists were aboard a van on their way to Calapan City when a group of armed men intercepted them. The armed men then boarded the van. At about 8 p.m., the armed group disembarked and hogtied Marcellana and four others.

The remaining six, along with the driver of the van who was heavily battered and bruised, were left behind, while the armed group that took Marcellana and the rest boarded a separate private jeep and drove off into a forested area in the direction of Victoria town. *With a report from Alcuin Papa*

Palace ...

From page A1

Ignacio Bunye, the administration wants to maintain "cordial" relations with Dante Ang, President Macapagal's former personal publicist.

In two articles published so far in his own newspaper, The Manila Times, Ang had railed against the allegorical dog "Viaje" and the latter's "kennel," saying big business transactions have to pass through them or else their proponents are harassed through lawsuits.

It is clear, according to Palace insiders, that Ang was referring to lawyer Arthur "Pancho" Villaraza as Viaje and his influential Villaraza-Angangco Law Office, formerly the Carpio, Villaraza and Cruz Law Office. The kennel refers to his law firm. Two of its former partners were appointed by the President to key government positions: Antonio Carpio to the Supreme Court and Avelino Cruz as Presidential Legal Counsel. Another senior partner, Simeon Marcelo, is now the Ombudsman.

Villaraza's law office has serviced the Arroyo family since the 1980s and has been holding office for sometime now in the LTA building in Makati, which is named after the mother of First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo.

In his articles, Ang warned of "ugly" consequences once supposed businesses coerced by Viaje to come up with cash up front start coming out in the open.

"The relationship remains cordial," Bunye said when asked to describe the current ties between President Macapagal and Ang, who served as her chief image maker since she first ran for the Senate in the early '90s.

"We prefer it remains that way," Bunye also said in his media briefing yesterday.

In a short interview after his briefing, Bunye said that Ang, who resigned as President Macapagal's senior consultant for public relations in November 2002, continued to advise his former No. 1 client from time to time.

"I suppose some of his advice are followed, some not," Bunye said when asked to describe Ang's current role Ms Macapagal's administration.

Bunye, however, professed lack of knowledge on the ties that bind the First Family and the Villaraza-Angangco Law Office.

"I am not familiar with that," Bunye said.

Bunye is the father of lawyer Patricia Bunye, herself a member of the law firm. The younger Bunye served as spokesperson of Mr. Arroyo until her father was named as press secretary last year.

SARS-hit village isolated

From page A1

three zones during the isolation period scheduled to last until April 26. It is headed by Alcala Mayor Juanito Collado and the rural health officer.

It was not immediately known how many households or persons, most of whom are relatives of Adela, are affected by the isolation order. The village has about 800 residents, including children, Collado said.

"Even before the isolation of the three zones, the residents already felt the stigma of being in contact with the probable SARS victim, with people from other barangays refusing to go near them," the mayor said. "Isolating the residents makes them angry, but this is for [everybody's benefit]."

Mejia said Catalon lived in Zone 1 and her relatives in Zone 3, and thus passed through Zone 2 when she made family visits upon her arrival April 5 from Canada.

The decision to isolate the three zones was made, Mejia said, after four of Catalon's relatives—her father, a brother-in-law who served as her driver, an 11-year-old boy and a baby—developed high fever and were taken April 19 to the Research Institute of Tropical Medicine (RITM) in Alabang, Metro Manila.

The brother-in-law, the boy and the baby have recovered but are still under watch and in isolation at the RITM. The father, Mauricio, died at 5:40 a.m. yesterday.

Dayrit said Mauricio's death did not mean that there was now "local" or "secondary" transmission of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome.

"The moment somebody who had come in contact with [Catalon] comes down with pneumonia or respiratory attacks, then we have a SARS case here," Dayrit said at a press briefing yesterday.

Dayrit said Catalon's father had an "abscess" or infection in the abdomen brought about by the presence of pus.

"That could explain why he had fever," Dayrit said.

The 250 others with whom Catalon had contact have not come down with SARS symptoms.

Ruptured appendix

Relatives, however, insisted that Mauricio died of a ruptured appendix.

They said Mauricio and his wife arrived from Canada in February.

"He was already sickly and was in fact confined at a hospital in Dagupan sometime after he arrived," said a cousin of Mauricio's. "He complained of pain in his lower abdomen, and I think it was his kidney that troubled him."

A niece said the family was planning to sue officials of the Department of Health who had earlier refused to release Mauricio for surgery.

The sealed coffin containing the body will be released only on April 26, when the quarantine period for those who had contact with Catalon shall have ended.

Nevertheless, Dayrit advised the family against holding a wake, to limit the possible spread of SARS among the other relatives and friends of the Catalons.

Food and medicine

Pangasinan health officer Mejia said Gov. Victor Agbayani had issued instructions to provide the residents of the three zones the necessary medicines and vitamins.

The provincial health office is providing the households a chlorine solution for disinfecting their homes.

Collado said the residents would be provided food during the isolation period, thus preventing their movement and the possible spread of the disease.

He said he was awaiting a recommendation from epidemiologist Revelyn Cayabyab of the regional health office, to declare the village under a state of health emergency.

"We will endorse the recommendation to the municipal council, which must pass a resolution declaring the barangay under a state of health emergency, so we can use our calamity fund to buy food for the residents," he said.

The mayor also said the local government planned to coordinate with national agencies to address the problem.

He said that as an "extreme" measure, the local government would ask for additional policemen to "guard" the residents and prevent them from going in and out of the isolated zones.

"But this is just in case some residents will insist on [leaving] their houses and the confined zones," the mayor said.

Panic and anger

At a press briefing, officials of the DOH and World Health Organization sought to downplay fears that Catalon was a "super-spreader" in view of the big number of people and places she came in contact with and visited prior to her death.

"You cannot consider her a super-spreader until those who came in contact with her—254—turn out positive for SARS," Dayrit said.

Told about the panic that the deaths of Catalon and her father had supposedly caused in their hometown, Dayrit called on the public to calm down and to strictly follow quarantine procedures.

"Eventually, SARS cases will occur," he said. "Because of the nature of this organism, you cannot shut it out completely. But you can minimize the havoc if you follow precautions."

He called on overseas Filipino workers returning from SARS-infected areas to wear masks, avoid contacts with family members and go into voluntary quarantine for at least 14 days.

The public is also advised to observe proper hygiene, like washing the hands thoroughly, covering the mouth and nose when sneezing, and avoiding spitting, he said.

But residents of the Catalons' village are "very angry" with the "misinformation" in the media.

"There is too much false information aired on TV," said a niece of Mauricio Catalon's. "A news program reported that Adela's brother, who is the barangay captain, also developed the disease when in fact he just accompanied their father to [the RITM]. Then the baby was also reported to have died. That baby is really sickly, and the DOH, thinking that the baby could be [developing] SARS, also took the baby to the hospital. But now the baby is well.

"It is because of the misinformation that people from other places refuse to deal or talk with us, or come near us."

The village residents said they were hurt at being made to feel like lepers.

Most of them also resent the presence of DOH personnel who go around the village to take their temperature "in full costume."

"They have masks, hair protection, and plastic coats on, as if the village is a very dangerous place," said a council member. ***With a report from Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

RITM to be reserved for SARS cases

From page A1

tients suffering from dog bites as well as "dermatology patients." But it is now gearing to isolate them from SARS patients under quarantine there.

In Malacañang, President Macapagal-Arroyo said her administration would raise measures to contain SARS "to a higher level." But she did not say how beyond reiterating an appeal to travelers from SARS-affected countries to "strictly follow the rules of quarantine being imposed by the Department of Health."

The President pledged to keep the public informed about suspected SARS cases and to "thoroughly investigate" all reported or suspected cases. "We shall inform the public and the world of the facts as they emerge," she said in a statement.

Her spokesperson Ignacio Bunye told reporters that screening procedures at the ports of entry had to be tightened.

Bunye described the death of "probable SARS case" Adela Catalon as a cause for "concern."

"Given this current situation, [the SARS crisis committee has] to come up with ways and means to tighten the entry procedures," he said.

But so far, voluntary quarantine is the main mode to prevent the spread of SARS here, until the DOH says otherwise, Bunye said.

The DOH wants incoming travelers from SARS-affected countries to stay at home for at least seven days to see if they develop the disease's flu-like symptoms. If they do, they have to report to a hospital.

"But I guess the SARS committee itself is constantly reviewing its own procedures," Bunye said.

Transnational effort

The President also explained her reason for attending an emergency Asean leaders' summit on SARS, to be held in Bangkok on April 29.

"The most effective way to defeat this menace is through a transnational effort," she said. "We can see now that no nation can fence itself in from the threat."

She said the leaders would share best practices, common policies and procedures to check SARS across borders.

All 10 leaders of Brunei, Burma, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam are expected to attend the unprecedented summit.

"Every leader will come," Thai Foreign Minister Surakiart Sathirathai told reporters in Bangkok.

The summit was announced last week by Thailand at Singapore's initiative, and will be chaired by Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen.

China has expressed interest in participating, Surakiart said.

"If China attends, the summit would be separated in two parts—the first part with Asean leaders and then Asean plus China," he said.

A government spokesperson said Sunday that China had not been invited and would merely be informed of the meeting's results.

Five of the 10 Association of Southeast Asian Nations have recorded SARS deaths—Singapore, Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia and the Philippines.

China, where the mysterious respiratory disease is believed to have originated, has now reported 97 SARS deaths out of 223 worldwide.

Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra has said the summit would determine an Asean position on SARS, and help rebuild shattered business, tourism and investor confidence in Southeast Asia.

'Big risk'

But Cebu Rep. Nerissa Soon-Ruiz, chair of the House subcommittee on public health warned the President against attending the summit.

"That's a big risk," the congresswoman told reporters. "I don't think it's so important for her to be there personally."

Soon-Ruiz, a physician practicing family medicine, said the President could take part in the summit through teleconferencing.

"It's not really necessary for her to go because we have the wonders of modern technology," she said.

Soon-Ruiz said the President and her party should not take the risk of being a victim or a carrier when the Philippines was still relatively SARS-free.

"You don't know exactly where the virus is," she said. "It is circulating in the air and you could be getting it by shaking hands [with infected persons] and *beso-beso* [touching cheeks]."

Soon-Ruiz said it was almost inevitable that the disease would break out in the Philippines because of its porous borders and the sheer number of residents going to and from SARS-affected countries.

She said the screening process at the airports was "not perfect," and warned that people intimidated with the prospect of being quarantined might avoid detection.

Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza ordered anew airport and sea port officials to implement stricter measures against SARS.

"We appeal to all passengers to cooperate by filling up the health checklist so that necessary precautionary measures will be undertaken to prevent the spread of the deadly disease," Mendoza said in a statement.

He said he had instructed the Philippine Coast Guard led by Vice Admiral Reuben Lista to be on the lookout for Chinese fishermen who might slip into the country. "It is possible that SARS-infected Chinese nationals could try to enter the country using fishing vessels, so we must also be on guard," he added. ***Reports from Armand N. Nocum, Dona Z. Pazzibugan, Juliet Labog-Javellana, AFP***

'Don't kiss the bride!'

From page A1

wedding guests and the priest.

Although she was infected with Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), the bride had insisted on getting married in a church despite pleas from doctors.

After the ceremony, she was rushed to the hospital to join her brother and mother who were already in an isolation unit. The 25 guests, including four children, were quarantined in separate apartments.

The bride, mother and brother brought to four the number of SARS cases in India. Last week, doctors in the western resort state of Goa reported the first SARS case—an engineer who visited Hong Kong and Singapore.

Some doctors have expressed fears SARS could reach epidemic proportions in India—the world's second most populous nation with more than a billion people—due to its congested cities, overstretched health system and media reports of lax airport screening. *Reports from Reuters, AP*

"This should have not happened. I was shocked," Maharashtra state Health Minister Digvijay Khanvilkar told Reuters, adding the couple had rejected appeals from medical officials to delay the wedding.

Doctors believe the bride was infected by her brother, who arrived in India from Indonesia this month. He admitted himself to a hospital in Pune, about 100 km southeast of Bombay, on April 17—four days after he developed symptoms.

On Monday, he was confirmed as a SARS patient. Within hours, his mother and sister (the bride) were also confirmed to have the highly contagious respiratory illness.

The three family members are doing well in the hospital, doctors said.

The groom and the priest have been asked to stay in isolation in their homes.

"We've been keeping the guests under observation in three apartments since last night," Pune Municipal Corp health chief Dr. Anil Ravetkar told Reuters. "We've asked them not to step outside and our doctors are keeping a round-the-clock vigil."

He said the guests would stay in quarantine for a week.

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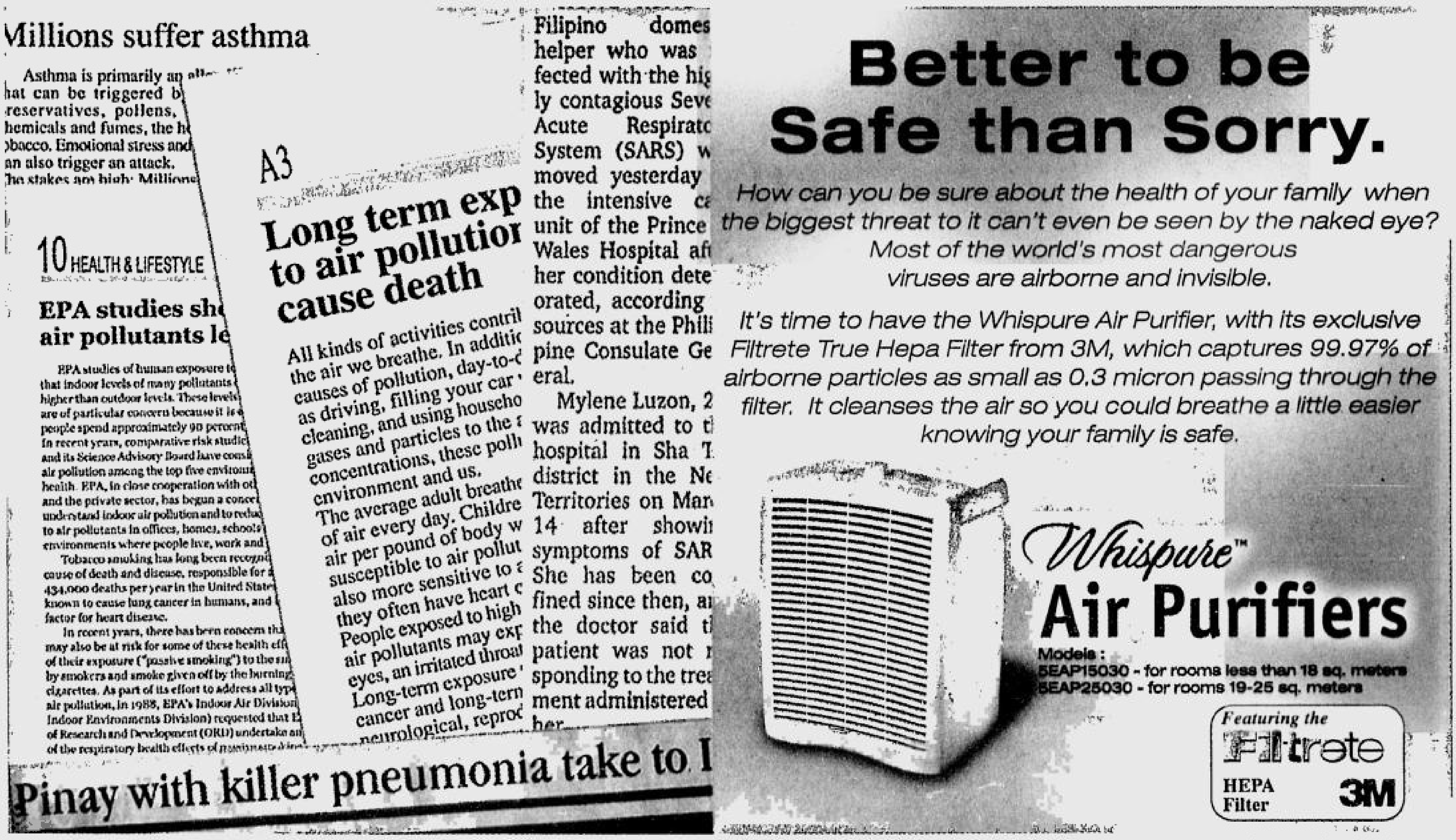

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SPORTS
Assistant Editor Edwin M. Villanueva

Srichaphan now ranked No. 10

BANGKOK—Thailand on Tuesday hailed its national sports hero Paradorn Srichaphan as he became the first Asian ever to break into the top 10 of the world tennis rankings. The charismatic 23-year-old Asian champion confirmed his status as the continent's best-ever player when he was ranked 10th in the latest ATP rankings, besting the exploits of India's Vijay Amritraj, who earned a 16th ranking back in 1980. *AFP*

ALL FILIPINO CUP

Phone Pals foil Kings in replay

GAMES TODAY *(Philsports Arena)*
5:00 p.m.—Sta. Lucia vs Alaska
7:30 p.m.—San Miguel vs Purefoods

By June Navarro

STOP Asi Taulava and the Talk N Text Phone Pals are bound to collapse.

The Barangay Ginebra Kings stuck to this belief and paid dearly for it, allowing the Phone Pals to escape with a 90-87 victory last night during the replay of their controversial game done exactly a month ago in the Samsung-PBA All Filipino Cup at the Araneta Coliseum.

"It's the new system of involving every player on the floor that won the game for us. We looked like a team now unlike before when we used to rely on individual plays," said the 6-foot-9 Taulava.

The Kings limited Taulava to 15 points in an almost no-relief game, far below the Fil-Tongan's 26 points per game average.

What the Kings failed to see was Talk N Text coach Joel Banal's new strategy of moving the ball around on the offensive until it finally hits the open man.

"It's just plain and simple pattern of finding the open man. As long as the players are open, they have the license to shoot," said Banal, whose Phone Pals climbed to 6-5 and moved to solo second behind frontrunner Red Bull in Group B.

In the past, Taulava said the Talk N Text system relied too much on mismatches and one-on-one plays, a design which Banal altered when he took over the coaching chores from American coach Paul Woolpert two weeks ago.

The Kings, who absorbed their eighth defeat in 12 games, also failed to check the towering performance of the 5-foot-8 Jimmy Alapag, who accounted for a third of the Phone Pals point production as the defense collapsed on Taulava most of the time.

"The crowd support that Ginebra gets is really tremendous. Knowing this, I have to really put more intensity on my game," said Alapag, picked 10th overall by the Phone Pals in the rookie draft.

Alapag's paranoia with the Ginebra faithful fetched him wonders as he topscored with 26 points for Talk N Text.

Scores:

TALK N TEXT 90—Alapag 26, Taulava 15, Carey 12, Belano 8, Telan 7, Ravena 6, Locsin 6, Pablo 6, Fran 3, Gonzalez 1.

GINEBRA 87—Caguioa 26, Limpot 17, David 15, Menk 13, Adducal 5, Tolomia 5, Crisano 4, Dimaunahan 2, Salvacion 0, Johnson 0, Lago 0.

Quarters: 21-22, 45-32, 65-61, 90-87.

Agojo up by 4 shots

By Jong Arcano

ON a day when the wrong stroke of the pencil got the bid of the Class B top seed to a sorry end, multi-titled Jayvie Agojo and the rest of the big guns bumped into some hostile resistance in yesterday's rain-marred start of the Callaway Junior World qualifying tournament.

Agojo, the fairway princess blossoming into a talent of export quality, survived a gritty stand by Matet Salivio with a one-over-par 73 at the Southwoods Legends course which pushed her four shots ahead in girls Class A of the event serving as the third leg of the Samsung Jungolf Tour.

JR Gonzales and Kristina Potenciano opened up slim leads in Class E while Nonoy Negrido and Aran Olea (boys Class A), Jik Jik Abdon (boys Class C), Mia Piccio (girls Class C) and Linelle de Villa (girls Class B) surged ahead in their respective divisions.

The Class D action at the Riviera executive course was called off due to rains.

Tonlits Asistio, the Class B favorite, will not be among those teeing off in the second round of the championships today.

Asistio was the clubhouse leader with his 73 only to get disqualified later for signing for a par instead of a bogey on the 15th hole. Asistio's disqualification elevated Miko Yee and Mikee Camitoc as joint leaders, up by five over three others.

La Salle Lipa golfest Friday

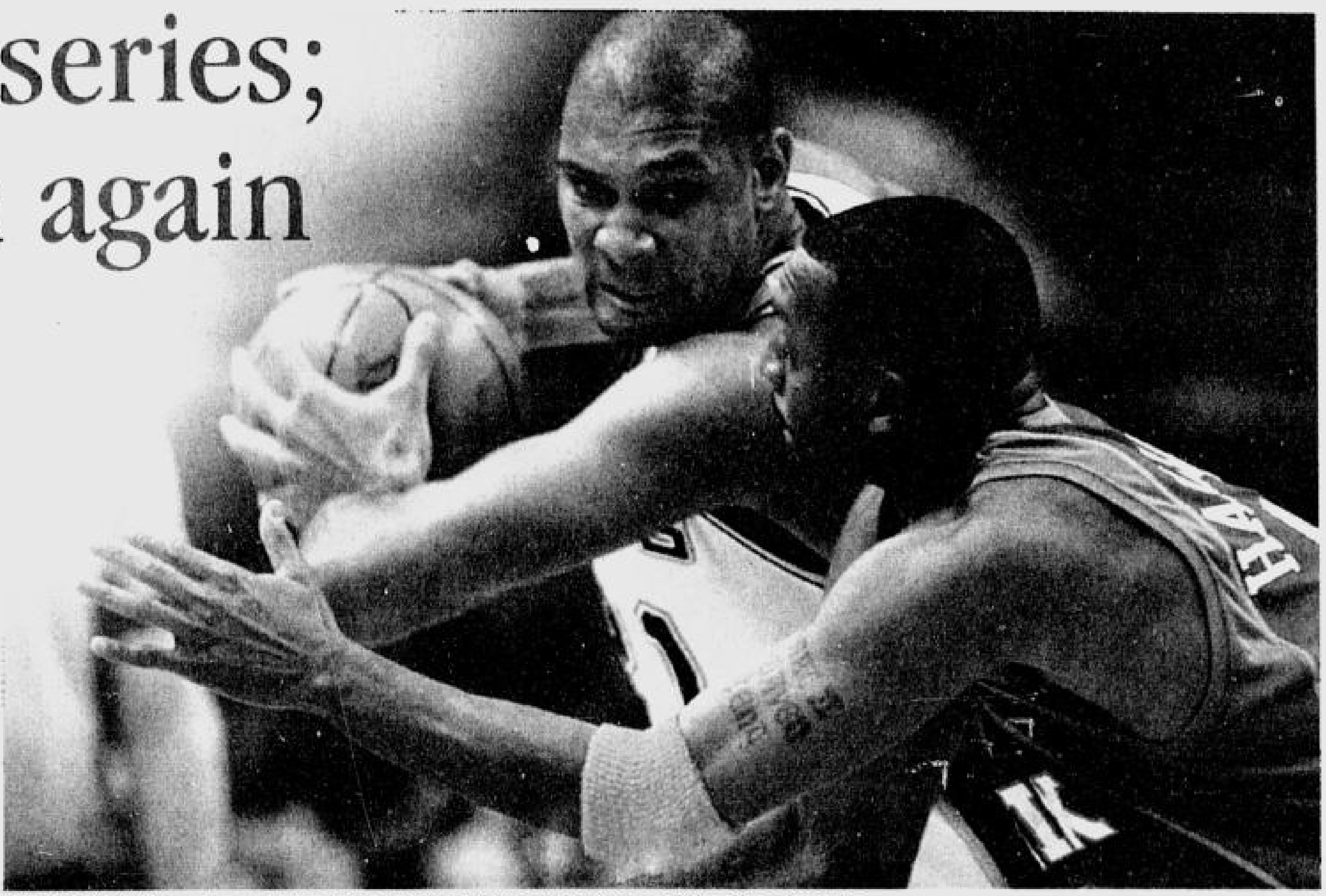
THE MALARAYAT Golf and Country Club will host the De La Salle Lipa's 2nd Silver Stallion Golf Tournament this Friday.

Playing members of Batch 1978, the school's silver jubilarians, lead entries to the invitational event supported by Globe Telecom, Cebu Pacific Air, the Philippine Daily Inquirer, Boysen Paints, Montenegro Shipping Lines and Primera Agro Development Corp.

Part of the proceeds of the fund-raising event will go to the Bro. Jaime Hilario Learning Community, the free five-year night school of La Salle Lipa for poor but deserving students.

A round-trip ticket to Hong Kong via Cebu Pacific awaits the overall champion. Shotgun tee-off is from 7 a.m. Registration begins at 6 a.m. *Teddyvic Melendres*

Spurs tie series; Kings win again



DUNCAN (left) grabs a rebound away from Anfernee Hardaway of the Phoenix Suns. AFP

SAN ANTONIO—San Antonio didn't stop Stephon Marbury, but the Spurs did make their free throws down the stretch Monday, taking an 84-76 victory over Phoenix to even their NBA playoff series at one game each.

Two days after the Spurs missed six of their eight free throws in overtime and fell to the Suns in Game 1, Tim Duncan scored half of his 22 points in the fourth quarter. He helped San Antonio battle back from a seven-point deficit in the period.

The series switches to Phoenix for games on Friday and Sunday (Saturday and Monday, respectively in Manila).

With the Spurs leading 77-76, Manu Ginobili made a 3-pointer from the wing with 1:02 remaining.

Marbury, the hero of Game 1 with a running 3-point bank shot in overtime, missed a drive to the basket on the next possession.

San Antonio then clinched the victory by making all four of its foul shots in the final minute.

NBA All-Star Gary Payton, Sam Cassell and the Milwaukee Bucks try to overcome controversy and a 0-1 series deficit when they face the New Jersey Nets in Game Two of their first-round NBA Playoffs series today (April 23), live at 7 a.m. on Solar Sports. Replay will be at 8 p.m.

In Indianapolis, Reggie Miller came off the bench in the final minutes to drill a 3-pointer as Indiana beat Boston 89-77 and even the Eastern Conference playoff series 1-1.

In Sacramento, California, Peja Stojakovic scored 29 points, and Vlade Divac had 15 points and seven rebounds as Sacramento beat Utah 108-95 to take a 2-0 lead in their first-round series.

Playing the aggressive, high-scoring style that put them among the NBA's elite, the Kings took a 25-point lead early in the fourth period–and they did it mostly without leading scorer and rebounder Chris Webber, who went to the locker room early in the second quarter with a strained lower back. *AP*

John-O shines

LONG-RANGE shooting lifted John-O to an 83-74 victory over LBC-Batangas yesterday in the Sunkist-PBL 2003 Unity Cup at the Pasig Sports Center.

Mark Macapagal drilled in two triples and Celino Cruz one as John-O repulsed LBC-Batangas' fiery rally with a 13-2 blast late in the third quarter.

Macapagal wound up with 20 points, highlighted by four triples, and eight rebounds to power John-O to its fifth win against two losses and the top spot in the NCR Division.

Ricky Calimag added 15 points while Cruz added 14 for John-O.

LBC Batangas, despite drawing a game-high 22 points from Alex Compton, fell to 3-5 in the Luzon Division.

-Hapee Toothpaste subdued ICTSI, 80-71, in the second game to keep the solo lead with a 6-1 slate. ICTSI dropped to 3-4. *Roy Luarca*

Bigger Tour edition eyed next year

By Roy Luarca

TOUR Pilipinas hasn't even begun, but already its organizers are looking forward to a bigger edition next year.

Bert Lina, Tour Pilipinas chair and owner of the sponsoring Airfreight 2100, bared his plan to include Visayas and Mindanao in the bikefest itinerary when he guested in yesterday's PSA Forum at the Manila Pavilion Hotel.

After a four-year hiatus, Tour Pilipinas is getting back on the road again this Saturday in Legaspi City with Lina promising a thrilling 15-lap, 18-day cycling spectacle.

"We're happy that we're able to bring the Tour back. Expect an exciting summer for our cyclists," said Lina, who was accompanied by race manager Paquito Rivas.

The revival of the Tour, considered as the country's biggest sports event every summer until it encountered sponsorship problems in 1998, caught the interests of many, including Philippine Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain. Buhain, who also guested in the same Forum, called Lina "a sports hero of the new generation."

Lina got an additional surprise when the sportswriters who attended the session sponsored by Agfa Colors, Red Bull and Pagcor presented him a cake as a gift a day before he turns 55.

Lina said he'll be joining the Tour, staged at the cost of around P32 to P40 million, majority of the way, with the caravan set to leave for the Bicol region tomorrow at dawn.

Villamayor tames rival, keeps chess lead

GRANDMASTER Bong Villamayor got back on the winning track yesterday, hurdling NM Roland Joseph Martinez and keeping the lead after 15 rounds of the Shell National Open Rapid Chess Tournament Grand Finals at the DILG Multi-Purpose Hall, A. Francisco Gold Condominium II, Edsa, Quezon City.

Villamayor, the only unbeaten player in the 12-man field, raised his total to 10.5 points, one up on GM Eugene Torre who has 9.5.

Continuing his recovery, Torre downed IM Barlo Nadera, moving ahead of GM Joey Antonio, who was at 9 points following a draw with NM Ronald Dableo.

With six wins and nine draws, Villamayor said he needs to win at least 50 percent of the last seven games to make the national team to the Vietnam Southeast Asian Games rapid chess category. *Roy Luarca*

PBA·should revert to old format

CLEAN LIVING
Manolo R. Iñigo

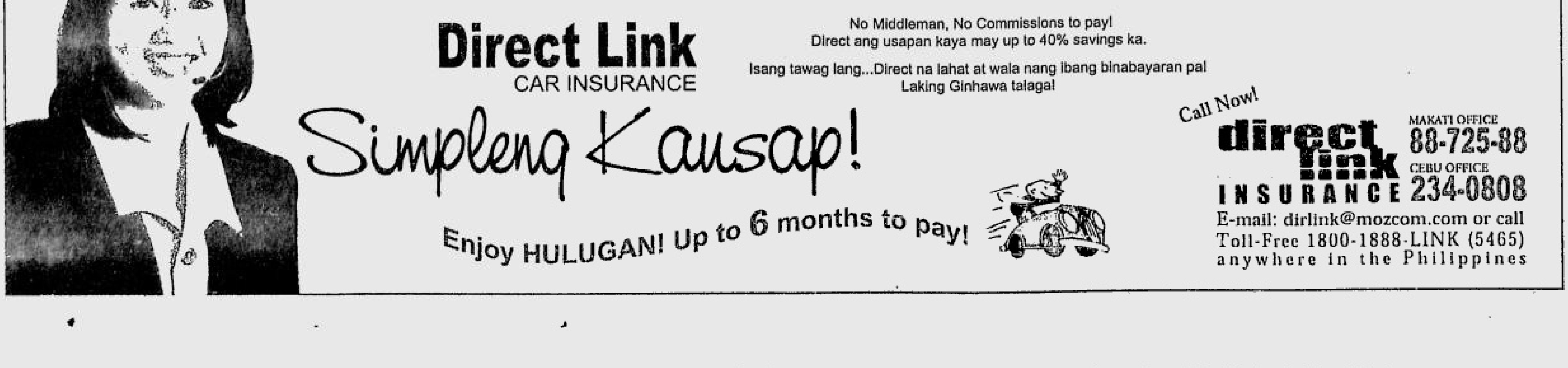
I HESITATE to point out the obvious, but the Philippine Basketball Association has suddenly become a league where winning is practically meaningless.

For instance. In the ongoing PBA All Filipino Cup, all the teams that will make it into the quarterfinal round will be starting from scratch, meaning that their win-loss record in this elimination series will not count in the quarters. This is unfair to the frontrunners. Why? Because these top teams could fall flat on their faces by losing in the next round to the lowest-placed teams.

And I agree with the diehards, including straightforward Yeng Guiao, coach of pacesetting Batang Red Bull (10-1), who said that the format of the All Filipino Cup does not reward teams that play well.

"There is no incentive for the top teams," said the 42-year-old Guiao, who piloted the Photokina franchise of much admired George Chua to back-to-back PBA Commissioner's Cup championships in 2001-2002. The present format, he added, is favorable to weak teams and doesn't reward the teams that perform well.

With their league-best 10-1 slate, Batang Red Bull is already assured of a slot in the quarterfinals. "We may lose one or two games along the way, but so far, we're playing the best basketball among the other teams," Guiao said. Still, he isn't taking the others lightly. "Even if the pressure of making it into the next round is gone, we're now trying other means to further strengthen the team. It's back to work after the long holidays."



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SPORTSWATCH

Kenyan, Russian top Boston run

BOSTON—Robert Cheruiyot won the Boston Marathon on Monday to give Kenya its 12th victory in 13 years. Russia's Svetlana Zakharova won the women's race to prevent a second consecutive Kenyan sweep. Cheruiyot is the eighth Kenyan to win the race since his country began its domination in 1991. It was just his second career marathon, having won his debut in Milan in December. Cheruiyot (pronounced Cheh-REE'-yot) finished in 2 hours, 10 minutes, 11 seconds, to win by 23 seconds and earn $80,000, an olive wreath and a bowl of beef stew. Defending champion Rodgers Rop was seventh. Zakharova finished in 2:25:20. Her biggest challenge was staying on the course when the television truck turned away before the Back Bay finish line. She is the first Russian to win since 1993. *AP*

Duckpin tourneys under way

THE 28th Grand National Championships and the 8th National Youth duckpin bowling tournament fires off today until may 4 at the Marketplace Center along Kalentong St., Mandaluyong City. Gift certificates and trophies worth around P400,000 will be disputed in the following events - men's and ladies' team, A/B singles, Class C singles, Masters, Youth (10 to 16 years old) and seniors (60 and above women and 65 and above for men). The opening ceremony will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 26 with Customs Commissioner Antonio Bernardo, POC president Celso L. Dayrit and PSC chair Eric Buhain as guests of honor. Highlighting the opening rites is the selection of Miss PHIDBC (Philippine Duckpin Bowling Council) 2003. According to PHIDBC president Inez G. Magbual, special awards will be given in addition to the regular prizes for every event.

RP netter off to US for training

A. LIM

PHILIPPINE lawn tennis standout Arithmetico G. Lim left recently for the United States to join several tournaments and undergo training for three months. The 14-year-old Lim was accompanied by his brother and coach Numero. Arithmetico Lim is a second year high school and a consistent honor student of Chiang Kai Shek College. He is member of national developmental pool and a protege of Manila City Vice Mayor Danilo B. Lacuna.

Iloilo booters rule Visayas leg

ILOILO's Central Philippines University retained the championship in the Visayas leg of the Gentxt-National Beach Football Series 2003 in Boracay recently by nipping Hey Jude, 1-0. Captain Wesley Hortelano scored the winning goal in the sudden death playoff. Also sponsored by Gatorade, Centrum, Viva Mineral Water and Computer Mind, the Visayas regional qualifying meet attracted a total of five teams. Aside from CPU, another Iloilo team, Gedd's Boys, also competed together with Athleta-Bacolod and local teams Summer Place and Hey Jude, the host resort in Boracay. CPU topped the elimination round with a 3-1 win-loss record to clinch a finals berth. The win sent CPU to the finals in Boracay next month.

Youth triathlon fires off Sunday

YOUNG triathletes take the limelight when the Fit & Tri Youth Triathlon, a developmental program aimed solely at expanding the base of participants for the three-disciplined sport of triathlon, kicks off its inaugural leg for the year 2003 on Sunday (May 4) at the Las Villas De Manila in Biñan, Laguna. Now on its third year, the four-leg youth triathlon series has in the last two years discovered new talents who have been included into the developmental pool of triathletes by the Triathlon Association of the Philippines (TRAP), according to Lito Fugoso, the event's project director. Deadline of registration is on April 30. For more details, call 896-4544 and 895-6548.

Arevalo, Libao gain quarterfinals

TOP seed Patrick Arevalo ripped Jacob Lagman, 6-0, 6-1 and No. 2 Akio Sy blanked Martin Libao, 6-0, 6-0, yesterday to enter the boys' 12-under quarterfinals of the Luis Hilado Memorial Cup at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center. Arevalo will face No. 8 Kim Ivor Saraza, who survived Jospeh Suyosa, 6-3, 2-6, 6-3, while Sy will meet Paul Nicole Magaway, a 6-2, 6-0 winner over Larry Carino. Other winners were No. 4 Tomic Apacible over Noel Agra, 6-0, 6-1, No. 5 Raymarc Santiago over Alberto Villamor, 6-3, 7-5, and No. 6 Jigo Pena over Jomar Narvaez, 6-2, 7-5.

TOOL FOR PEACE

All set for Lanao Palaro

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THIS year's Palarong Pambansa will be more than just a sports meet but will also be a tool for peace and harmony among the people of Mindanao.

This was the overriding motive of Lanao del Norte Gov. Imelda Quibranza-Dimaporo in hosting the Palaro on May 4-11 at the Mindanao Civic Center in Tubod.

"Our theme is: Bridging the gap across the nation through sports," said Dimaporo during the PSA Forum at the Holiday Inn. "What the people don't know is that most of Mindanao is peaceful."

"The news that we are finally hosting the Palaro has provided excitement all over Mindanao. We want to show that there can be peaceful co-existence between Muslims and Christians," said Dimaporo, a devout Christian who is married for 25 years to Rep. Abdullah Dimaporo, a Muslim sultan.

The Dimaporos attended the Forum along with Philippine Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain, who lauded the preparations being taken by the Lanao del Norte provincial government.

GOV. Imelda Dimaporo (right) points out something while her husband, Rep. Abdullah Dimaporo, listens during yesterday's launching of the 2003 Palarong Pambansa at the PSA Sports Forum.

BETOY JOHNSON

Buhain said the PSC has already approved all the technical preparations for the Palaro even as he declared that the PSC expects to get a P30-million budget from President Arroyo's Presidential Social Fund.

The President's assistance was in addition to the P10 million already approved by the congress.

Though several regions decided not to send delegations due to lack of preparation and security concerns, the PSC chief still noted the big turnout of the Games. Already there are more than 5,000 delegates who confirmed their participation.

National Capital Region and Central Visayas begged off although Buhain said several cities in the region will still send entries like Manila and Quezon City.

"We can't question the concerns of the parents," said Buhain. "But the effect of their decision will all be against them because they denied themselves of a chance to compete."

The province's military and police chiefs Col. Ernesto Boac and Sr. Supt. Laut Sarip, respectively, assured the safety of the participants as well as the crowd. They added that safety measures which were planned months ahead, are all in place with the full force of the police and military, including the Air Force and Coast Guard.

"There is hardly any report of violence in the province for the past months and it's unlikely the MILF (Moro Islamic Liberation Front) would do something to derail the Games because they won't get anything from it but bad public perception," said Boac.

"They (MILF) all know that we are exhausting all means to have a peaceful resolution and launching an attack would be a direct affront to the people," added Sarip.

Still, they vowed not to take chances, saying adequate measures are taken like posting task groups to secure the MCC premises, billeting areas and the routes in between them. *With reports from Alaine Lou Antonio*

25K run listing on

REGISTRATION for the 25K New Balance Power Race starts April 25.

This was announced by event director Nino Sinco of the organizing Alternative Events Group which has joined hands with Planet Sports, distributor of New Balance products in the country, for the second straight year in supporting the race.

Other co-sponsors are Powerade, the official energy drink, Power Bar, Cebuana Lhuillier Pawnshop, David's Salon, Pru Life UK, Fitness First and Rockwell Center.

SPORTSTV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

BASKETBALL: World Pro Basketball Challenge, 8 a.m. (r), ESPN

NBA Playoffs-Bucks vs Nets, Game 2, 7:00 a.m. (r- 8 p.m.), Solar Sports, Lakers vs Timberwolves, Game 2, 9:30 a.m. (r - 9:30 p.m.), Star Sports

NBA Anthology-1998: A Look Back, 7:30 p.m., ESPN

GOLF: Best of the PGA Tour-Comebacks, 11 p.m., ESPN

SOCCER: UEFA Champions League-Barcelona vs Juventus FC, 1 p.m. (r - 5:30 p.m.), Valencia CF vs Inter Milan, 3 p.m. (r), Manchester United vs Real Madrid, tomorrow at 2:30 a.m., ESPN

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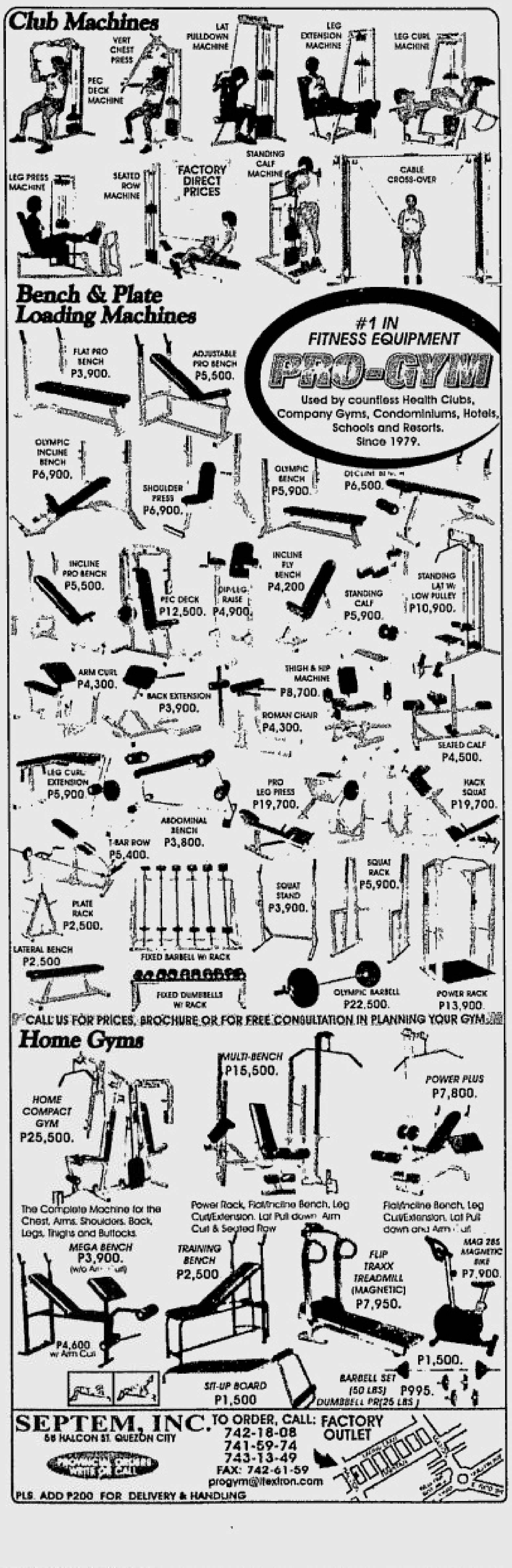
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Big guns join PSA derby

PATRICK "Idol" Antonio's Sagupaan Dream Team joined the list of topnotch breeders who will take part in the "PSA Challenge 50-Cock Main Derby" (Sagupaan Dream Team versus UCAP champions) on May 12 at the Mandaluyong Coliseum.

San Pablo City sportsmen Pol Estrellado and Blandy Tolentino and the tandem of Vice-Gov. Mario Espinosa and tabloid executive/columnist Rey Briones beefed up the Sagupaan Dream Team which looms as the top favorite in the event.

The Islander RB entry of Espinosa and Briones currently leads the pack in Pasay Cockpit Cockers Association (PCCA) derby series with their fiery Alabama Kelsos as magic weapons.

Entry fee is P25,000. T

For details, please contact 531-4003, 531-4005, 534-4110 and 535-2341.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1993, George Fernandez, Jing Sablan and Angelo Constantino conspired with 1852 pins to bag the trios title in the 13th TBAM Eastern Open tenpin championships at Green Valley lanes in Pasig.

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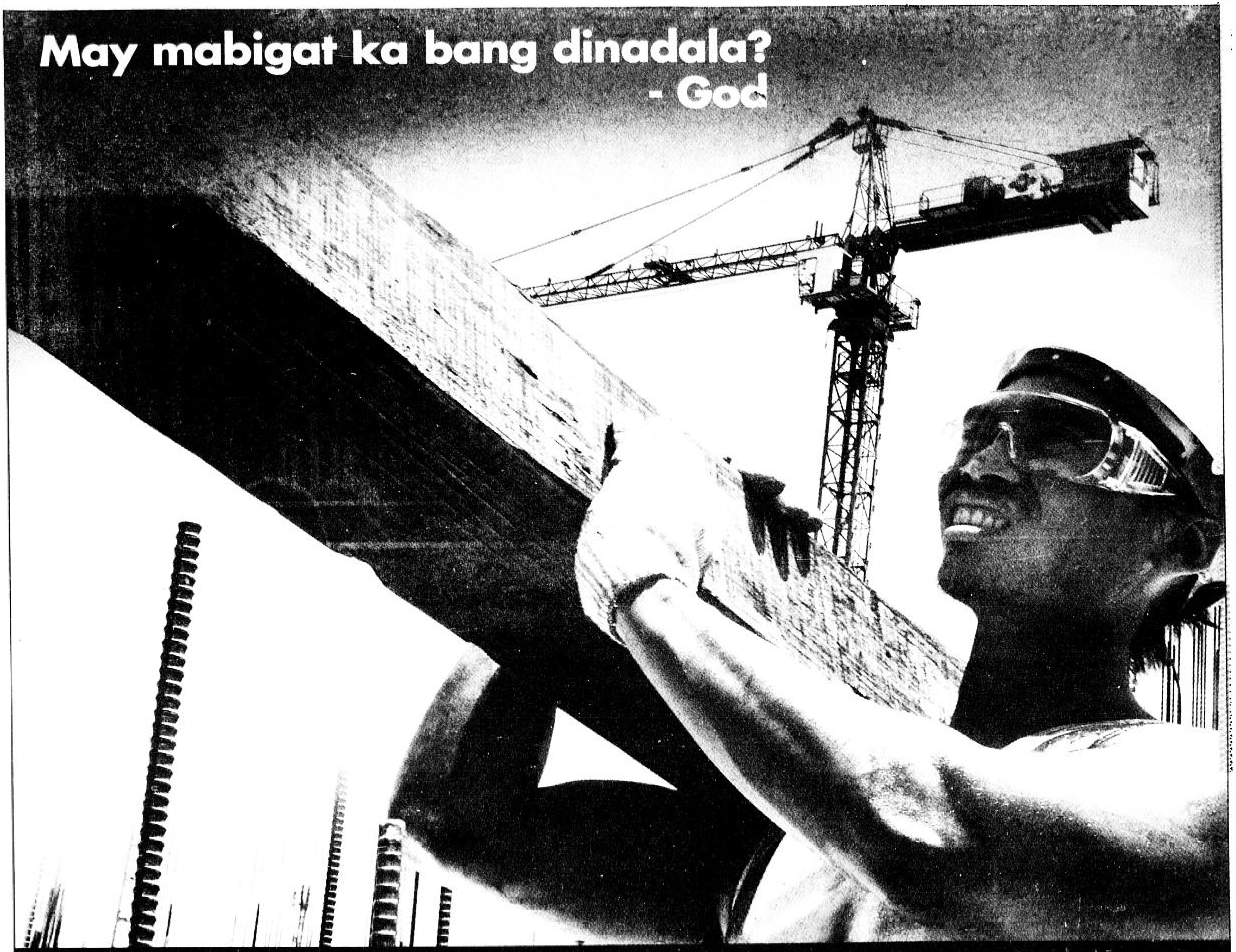
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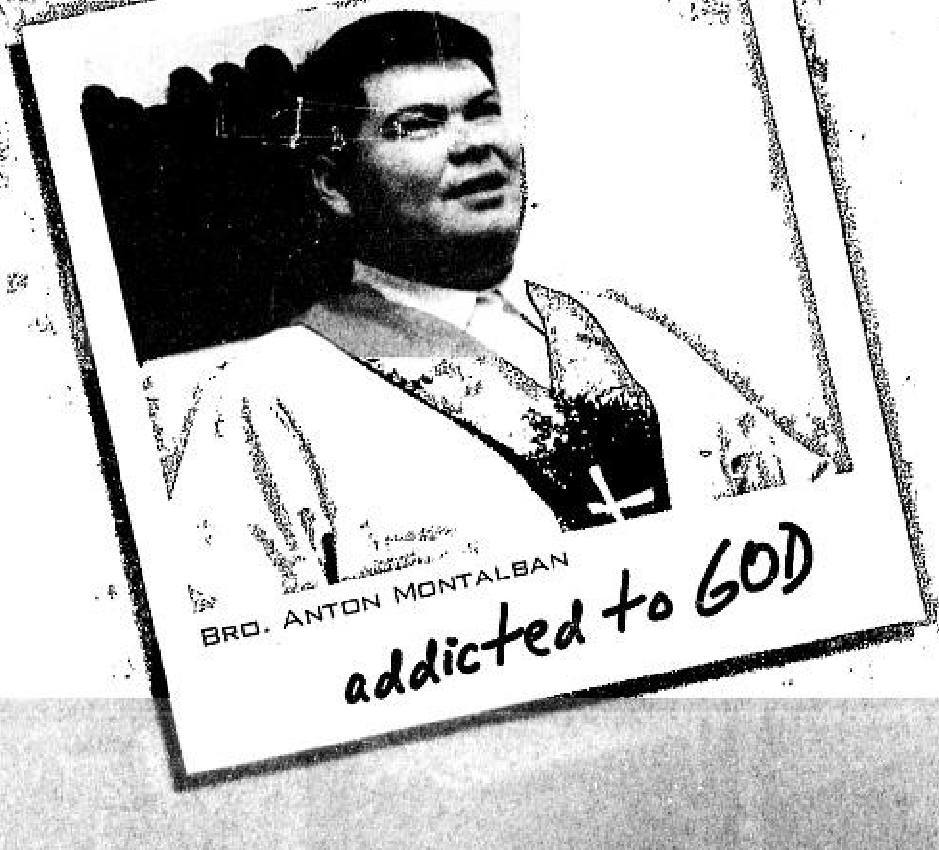
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until the
end of age.

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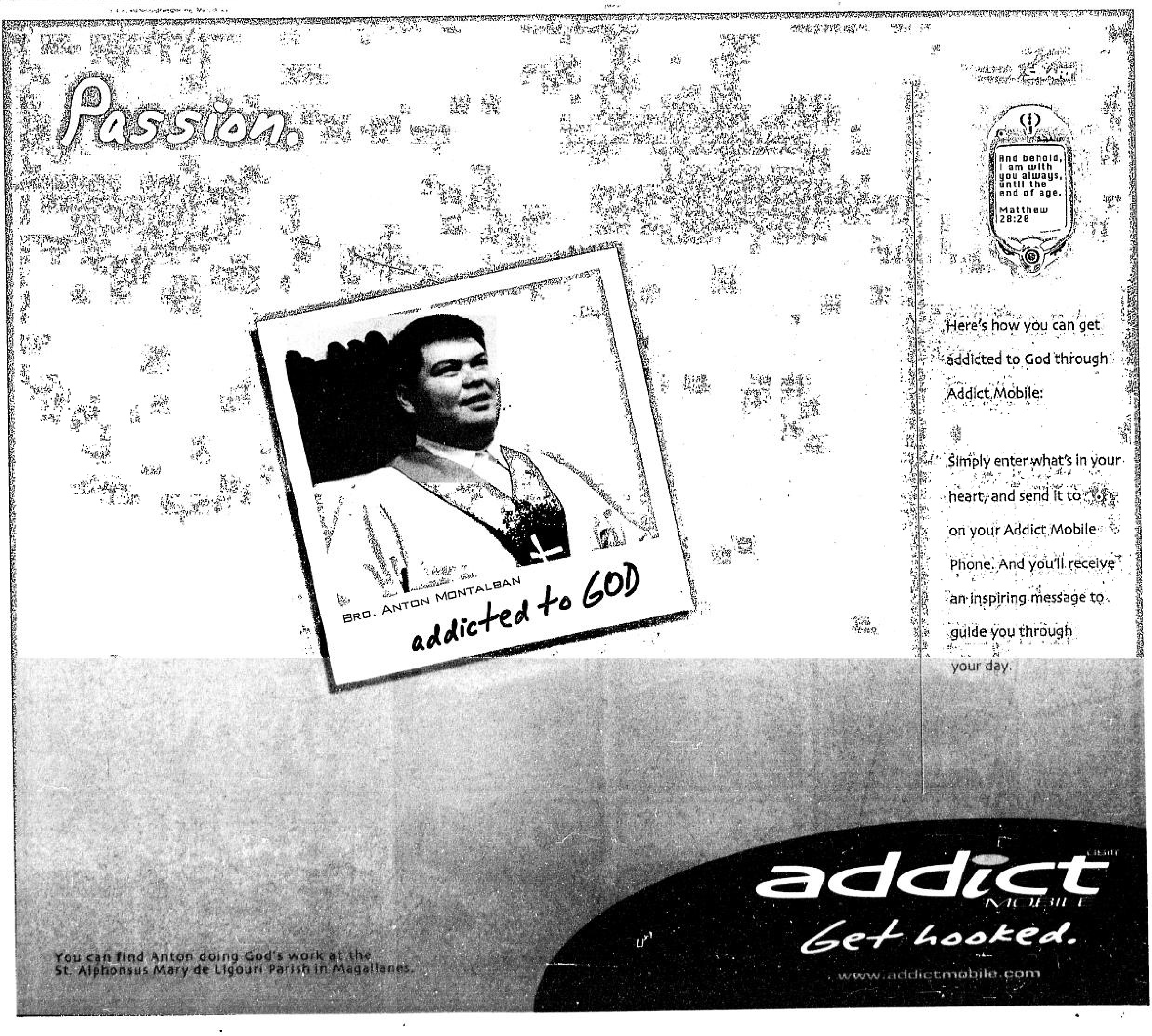

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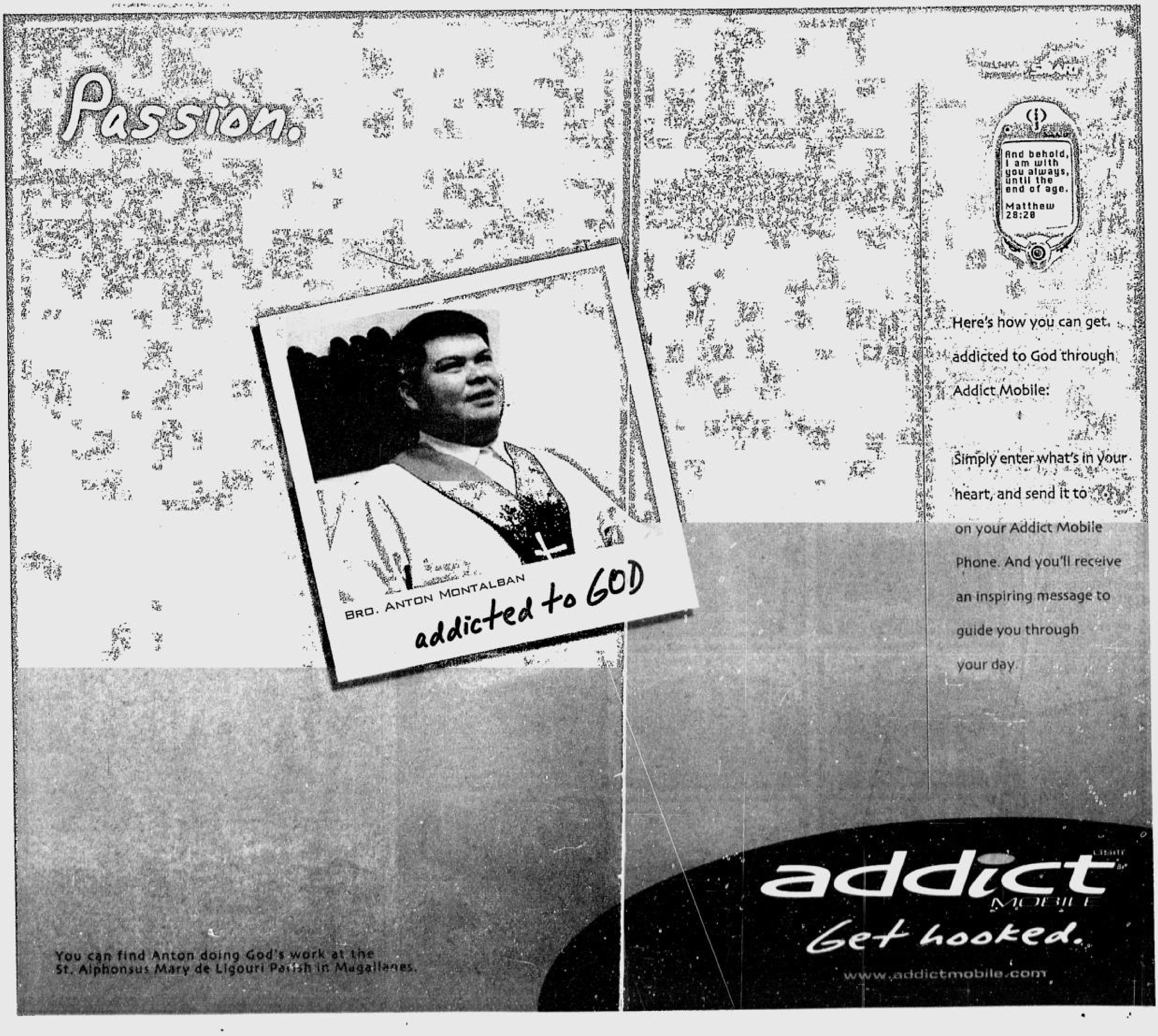
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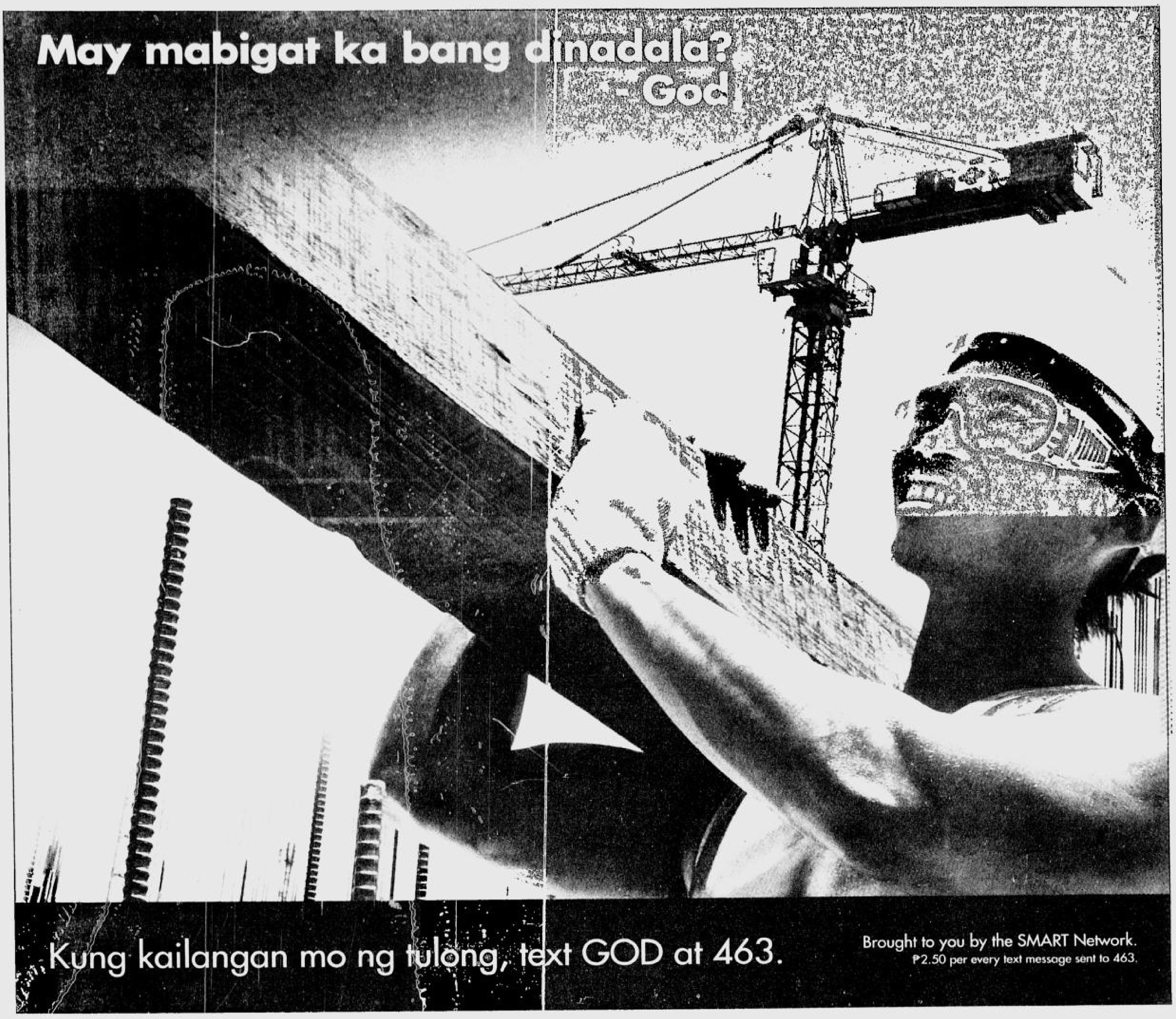
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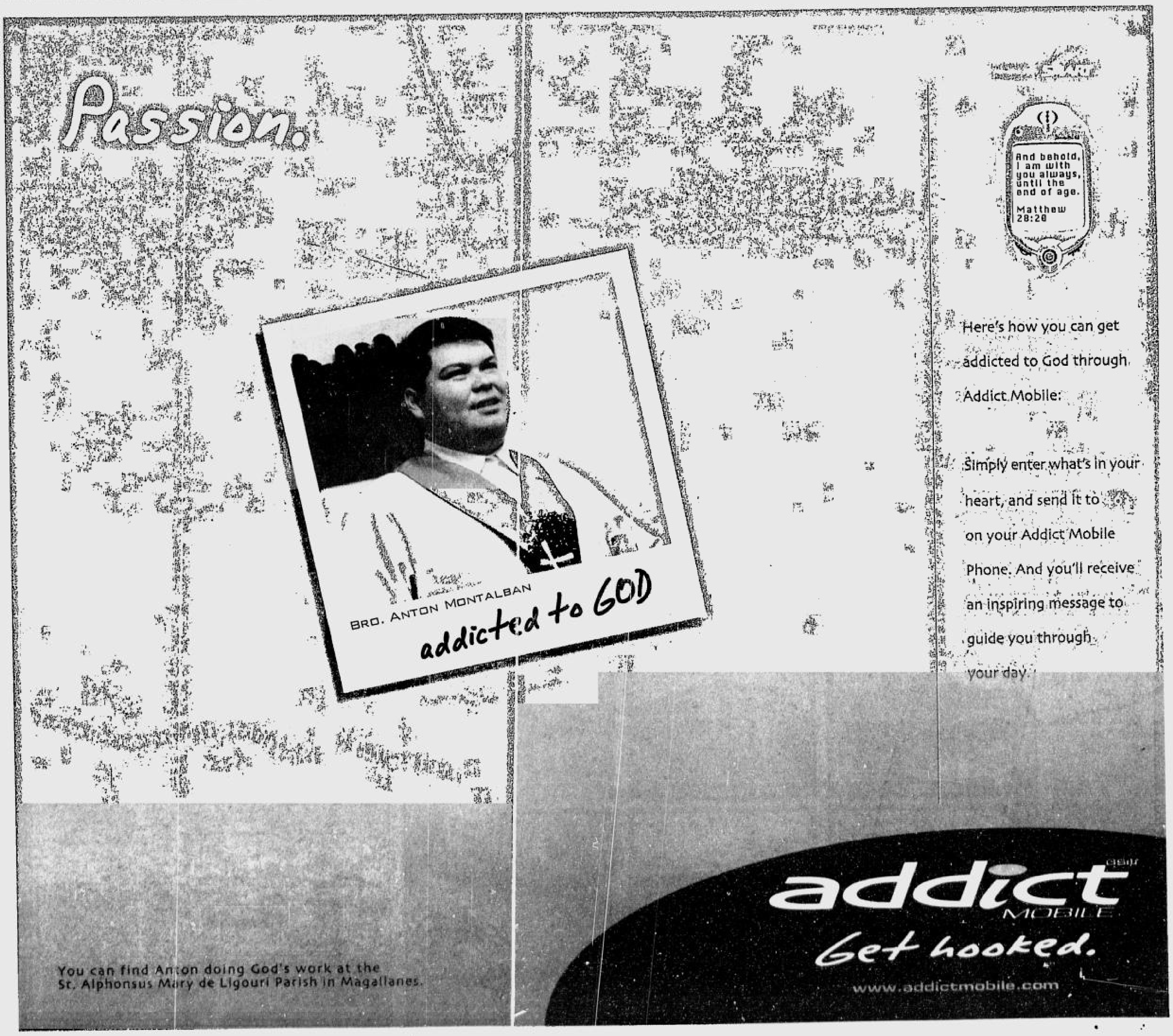
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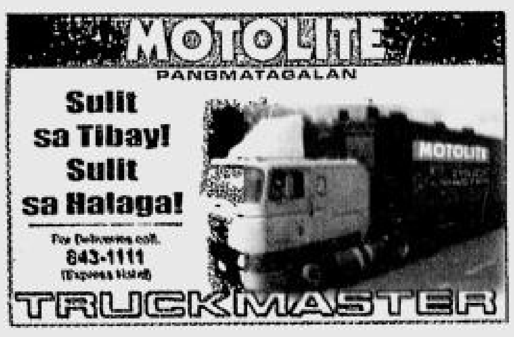
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MMDA acts to keep Metro clean

By Leila B. Salaverria

STUNG by the dust and grime in the metropolis, the Metro Manila Development Authority will resort to the basic ingredient to keep the region clean—water.

A truck spraying high-pressure jets of water will do the rounds of the metropolis in the early morning hours, blasting overpasses and flyovers with water to keep them spanking clean.

Traffic Operations Center Director Angelito Vergel de Dios said the MMDA had recently acquired a truck washer, which has power nozzles on all sides that can spray high-pressure jets of water.

The truck works like the water hoses used by firemen to put out fires and by police to drive away protesters.

Vergel de Dios said the powerful blasts of water are expected to wash out the grime in the overpasses and underbellies of flyovers, remnants of posters on the walls and the dust, dirt and litter that accumulate on the sidewalks.

MMDA General Robert Nacianceno explained that using the truck washer would be more efficient in keeping the metropolis clean than manual labor which would take too much time considering how fast the city gets dirty.

"Metro Manila is a dusty city," Nacianceno said.

He added that the MMDA is already looking for a cheap source of water that can be used for the truck cleaner.

Aside from keeping Metro Manila clean, the truck washer is expected to help stave off pollution caused by the dust, said Nacianceno.

When all the dirt has been washed down, street sweeper machines with vacuum hoses would take over and remove all of the residue that have accumulated on the ground.

The MMDA will initially test the effectivity of the new truck cleaner along Edsa before deploying it throughout the metropolis.

The truck will also see action during lean traffic hours to avoid causing traffic build-up.

Nacianceno said the newly acquired truck cleaner and four street sweeper machines are expected to complement the work of the clean-up teams of the MMDA.

Meanwhile, Muntinlupa City Mayor Jaime Fresnedi leads today the highlight of the month-long Earth Day event which is the clean-up of the city's eight rivers and tributaries.

Lake Management Office head Rodolfo Oliquino said Natural Resources Secretary Elisea Gozun will join Fresnedi in the planting of about 70 pieces of bamboo trees along the Alabang river.

DOING HIS SHARE
The task may difficult, but this boy shows what everyone can do to make the environment clean and livable. The clean-up job on an estero along Quirino Avenue in Manila was part of the observance yesterday of Earth Day. ERIK ARAZAS

WHAT'S INSIDE

- Velasco: Slain men in QC shootout criminals A26

onstage 2nyt

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MABINI ☎ 525.1474	CRO MAGNON AFTER 8/MIXED UP	NO ENTRANCE FEE
MALATE ☎ 521.8143	FAT 16 POWER SURGE	NO ENTRANCE FEE
NOVALICHES ☎ 936.9757	HIMIG SAINTS	APR.24 - AEGIS
BIÑAN ☎ (049)511.7268	ZEST STREETLIFE	NO ENTRANCE FEE
Tia Maria's	TIA MARIA'S	Tia Maria's
JUPITER ☎ 890.4735	SOUTH EDGE MAJOR 7	NO ENTRANCE FEE
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Like a Stone Audioslave TONE LYKSTONE	Somewhere in the middle Dishwala TONE MIDDLE
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3. Bakit Papa Sex Bomb TONE BAKITPAPA	8. Spiderman Movie Theme TONE SPIDERMAN
4. King and Queen Of Hearts David Pomeranz TONE KINGNQUEEN	9. Ain't It Funny Jennifer Lopez TONE AINTITFUN
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Privatization of Bilibid compound opposed

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE PRIVATIZATION of the New Bilibid Prisons compound will not only displace about 3,000 people but also uproot hundreds of trees and destroy several historical sites in Muntinlupa, according to the residents.

"We have everything to lose if the President will not listen to us," Lydia Basanta, president of the NBP Teachers' Organization, said in an interview.

The sprawling property is a "wealth of history," housing the Bagong Anyo Park, the Director's quarters, a sunken garden (formerly a golf course), a grotto, a pond, and a number of historical sites including an anti-aircraft cannon used by the Japanese in World War II, Basanta said.

She said residents have been preserving these sites, including hundreds of trees, since the compound was established in 1935.

But with the government's recent announcement that it would privatize the property to generate more income, residents are now caught in a struggle not only to preserve the area's heritage but also their homes.

Basanta fears that she and her neighbors would be driven away once the area is sold to the private sector.

She admitted that they have only rights, not titles, to the land in which their houses had been built. The land was awarded to them by their former employers in government.

Most of the residents have been living at the compound for more than 50 years and had worked at the penitentiary and other government offices.

Some teach at the Muntinlupa Polytechnic College, Muntinlupa National High School, and Itaas Elementary School which might also be displaced by the privatization, Basanta said.

SPLASH
Children enjoy a splash in a rubber pool and beat the heat of summer at the UP campus in Diliman, Quezon City.
JOAN BONDOC

Oil depot controversy rages, permit ends April 30

By Jerome Anining, Christian V. Esguerra and Anne Luisa E. Villarico

PACIFICO EUGENIO has been a resident of Barangay 834 in Pandacan, Manila for almost 78 years now, and is on his third term as Barangay Kagawad.

For 36 years, Eugenio was also an employee of one of the oil companies in the Pandacan oil depot. Eighteen years after his retirement from the oil firm, Eugenio has remained loyal to the company, which he said had helped him send his six children to school.

Eugenio is one of the many residents of Pandacan who are opposing the closure of the oil facility.

"The oil depot has to stay," he said. "It has brought many opportunities to the residents here."

Dismissing criticism that the oild facility poses a danger to the residents, Eugenio said: "I would not have reached the age of 70 if the depot has posed a threat to my health."

But about 150 militants and Pandacan residents yesterday demanded that the City Council preserve Manila Ordinance No. 8027, which calls for the closure of the oil facility after the part of Pandacan where the depot is located has been rezoned from an industrial to a commercial/residential area.

The United Front to Oust the Oild Depot warned that "killing" the ordinance "would be tantamount to killing Pandacan residents" who continue to live near the facility, which the councilors themselves have regarded as a fire hazard and potential terrorist target."

But Caltex executive Marian Catedral said in yesterday's Bulong Pulungan forum at the Westin Philippine Plaza that the City Council would have to shoulder the blame for massive fuel shortage, higher fuel cost and the breakdown of services of airports and seaports if the depot is forced to shut down.

"If the permit is not renewed, we will be forced to shut down," she said. "We cannot operate illegally."

Last January, the city council granted a three-month permit for the Pandacan oil depot to operate despite the ordinance.

Catedral said that if the permit is not renewed, the public should be ready for long queues at gas stations and the "slowdown in economic activity." She also warned that the situation would be worse than the 1973 oil crisis.

In a report, Caltex, Petron, and Shell claimed that the fuel supply in Metro Manila would be cut by about 50 percent if the depot were closed because the companies' pipeline would no longer be available.

Petroleum products would then have to be transported daily by thousands of tank trucks from their refinery facilities in Batangas and Bataan, Catedral said.

More than half of the 459 service stations in Metro Manila would also be forced to shut down, jeopardizing the operations of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport and the Manila Port, according to the report.

Blandino Bujatin, Chair of Barangay 834 said that the people opposing the continued stay of the depot are not residents of Pandacan.

"If there were any problems posed by the depot, we (barangay officials) should be the first one to complain about it," he said.

Ber Austria, also a barangay kagawad said the local oil companies even help the community in its infrastructure projects.

"The oil companies are not just concerned with their business interests, they have also provided scholarships, supported various social projects for the people," Austria said."

But environmentalist Tina Testa said the real enemy is not City Hall but the "Big Three"--referring to the oil companies--that, she said "are trying hard to buy and manipulate" the people involved in the controversy.

Testa urged city officials to listen and uphold the security concerns of Pandacan residents, saying, "Since the mayor is much involved in making Manila live again, the Council should not kill the city by scrapping the ordinance."

Yesterday's Council session adjourned early due to lack of a quorum, but the protesters' noise noise barrage partly disrupted Mayor Lito Atienza's welcome rites for the visiting Russian ambassador at City Hall's inner courtyard.

Kidnappers release ma, 2-year-old son

By Philip C. Tubeza

A MOTHER and her two-year-old son who were supposedly kidnapped along with the woman's female Korean cousin inside a Makati mall last April 12 were released unharmed by their captors last Sunday, according to Manila police.

The victims, natives of Pangasinan, were released at the Pedro Gil LRT station in Ermita, Manila, but the Korean is still with the kidnappers, said a police investigator.

He said that the 24-year-old mother and her son were unharmed and were fed adequately during their captivity, but their abductors had taken the woman's money worth P6,000.

The woman told police that they were kidnapped because her cousin had just received a very large inheritance.

She said the kidnappers had threatened to kill her if she reported to police the kidnapping.

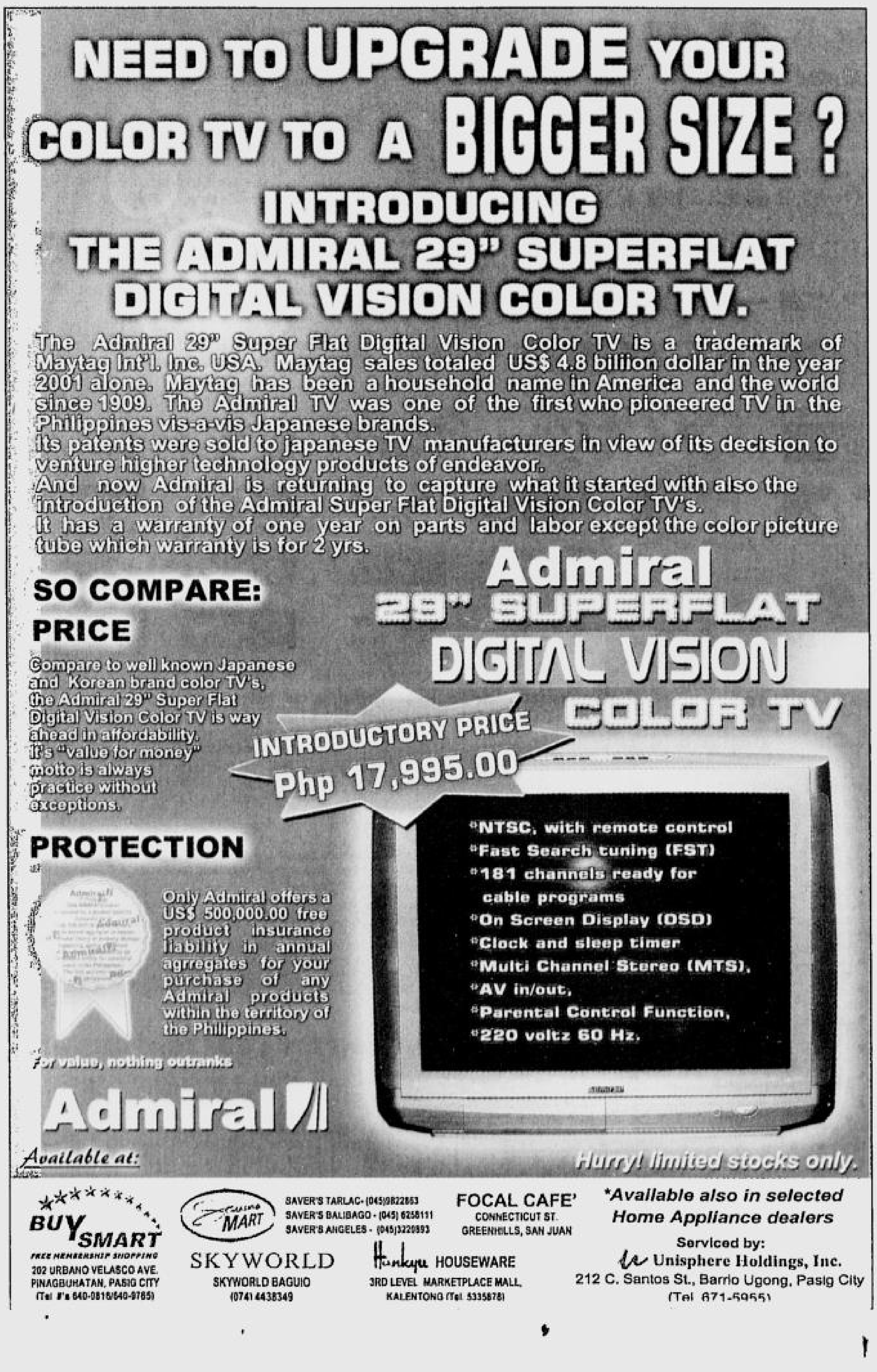
But the woman's brother who was in contact with his sister through her cell phone, had reported the abduction to police.

Police said they were informed that the victims would be released at the LRT station at about 5 p.m. last Sunday, but it turned out that the kidnappers had left them there as early as 1 p.m.

The woman told police that she could not remember the name of the mall where the kidnapping occurred since she had just arrived in Manila. She said she had come to Manila to ask her cousin for some money after the Korean received her inheritance.

About 10 armed men abducted them while they were inside the mall and then taken to a safe house in Parañaque, the woman said. She said she heard their kidnappers saying that they were in Parañaque.

The woman said that after seven days in captivity, the kidnappers had told her that she and her son would be released, but they did not say anything about her cousin. She then sent a text message to her brother, who in turn informed the police.



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Joey Marquez asks court to junk case barring him from movies, TV shows

By Jerome Aning

PARAÑAQUE Mayor Joey Marquez has asked a Manila judge to dismiss a lawsuit seeking to bar artists elected to public office from appearing in movies and television shows.

The Social Justice Society, a small political party composed mostly of lawyers, has filed the case against Marquez and other show biz personalities who have been elected as public officials.

Marquez said his "very splendid career" as mayor is due to his performance as a local executive and not to his popularity as an actor.

He said his performance "must have been outstanding and certainly one that is highly commendable," because he was voted mayor three consecutive times.

To say that he was elected because he is popular "would be considered an insult or attack on the wisdom and integrity of (my) constituents," Marquez added.

He said many artists also ran for elective posts but lost.

He said that the SJS case poses a challenge to his right to freedom of expression. Such freedom includes freedom to film, produce and exhibit motion pictures in theaters and television, he explained.

To prohibit someone from exercising his profession as an actor merely because he is also an elected official would constitute prior and direct restraint upon his exercise of the freedom of speech and expression, Marquez argued.

"For one who is qualified, the pursuit of a business, occupation or profession (such as being) an actor, is a right, and not a matter of the state's grace or favor, or privilege subject to withdrawal or denial at the whim of the state," he said.

Such a right "may not be taken away or impaired unless there is a paramount and compelling public interest."

Aside from Marquez, other respondents in the case are Mayor Vilma Santos of Lipa City and Pampanga Gov. Lito Lapid.

Both have also asked for the dismissal of the case, which is being heard by Manila Regional Trial Court Branch 14 Judge Cesar Solis.

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (CRIMINAL PROCEDURE)—**Stipulation of facts**—The acceptability of stipulating facts has long been established in our jurisprudence. In a case involving illegal possession of firearms, the prosecution and the defense stipulated the fact that the accused had been found in possession of a gun without the required permit or license. In People v. Bocar, the Court considered as valid the admission by the accused of the existence of certain affidavits and exhibits, which the prosecution had presented to dispense with oral testimonies on the matter contained therein. In People v. Hernandez, which involved illegal recruitment, the Court upheld the joint stipulation that the accused had not been licensed or authorized by the Philippine Overseas Employment Agency to recruit workers for overseas jobs. There is nothing irregular or unlawful in stipulating facts in criminal cases. The policy encouraging it is consistent with the doctrine of waiver, which recognizes that "x x x everyone has a right to waive and agree to waive the advantage of a law or rule made solely for the benefit and protection of the individual in his private capacity, if it can be dispensed with and relinquished without infringing on any public right and without detriment to the community at large." In the present case, the Joint Stipulation made by the prosecution and petitioners was a waiver of the right to present evidence on the facts and the documents freely admitted by them. There could have been no impairment of petitioners' right to be presumed innocent, right to due process or right against self-incrimination because the waiver was voluntary, made with the assistance of counsel and is sanctioned by the Rules on Criminal Procedure. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Panganiban, Third Division, Bayas v. Sandiganbayan (First Division), G.R. Nos. 143689-91. Nov. 12, 2002]

DIGEST BY R. B. VERA

España condo open house

CHOICE units of The Espana Tower are being offered at special cash prices under the "President's Month" package during its open house and relaunch on Saturday, April 26.

Lynn Maceda, FF Land executive vice president and chief operating officer, said the special cash package covers previously reserved units at The España Tower, a fully developed, ready-for-occupancy residential and office condominium tower on España Boulevard near the PLDT building in the area

On Earth Day, a park's fate hangs in the balance

By Jerome Aning

ONE SIDE aims to conserve the Arroceros Park in Manila, the other hopes to improve it.

Although park conservationist Winner Foundation Inc. and the Manila City Hall do not see eye to eye, both claim they have the best interests of the park at heart.

Winner President Regina Roces-Paterno said they hope that the park will serve its educational purpose by being an outdoor classroom-laboratory, where students may visit and study the trees and other plants.

On the other hand, Manila Mayor Lito Atienza has said that he is "bent on converting the park into a botanical garden for the people, come what may."

The issue has led to a bitter squabble that has now reached the sala of Manila judge Marivic Balisi-Umali.

Today, an uneasy truce exists between the two camps.

A source at the Manila City Hall said Vice Mayor Danilo Lacuna was able to convince Winner members and city hall officials to "cool it off" and work on the development of the park under "mutually agreeable terms" while waiting for the judge to resolve the case in court.

Meanwhile, the Winner group yesterday said that they hope to celebrate Earth Day at the park, which is located just off Quezon Bridge by the Pasig River, on April 26.

DENCIO, caretaker of the Arroceros Forest Park, enjoys a tree-lined sunset in the heart of Manila.

Banyans

In the park, about 150 large trees, among them century-old Indian rubber and banyan (balete) trees, soar side by side with more than 3,500 other trees, some full-grown, others mere saplings.

Hardwood and fruit trees have formed a natural canopy that provides a cool shade to visitors. Dead leaves and branches fall freely and pile up on the ground, turning into a natural forest floor that is strengthened by grass, ferns, shrubs, brushes and other smaller plants which prevent the land from being eroded by floods and the Pasig River's waters.

The park is maintained and guarded 24-hours a day by its resident caretaker, Dencio, who lives with his family in a small hut on the northeast corner of the place.

Dencio waters the seedlings, tends the compost pit, wards off vandals and vagrants, and welcomes visitors, acting as a tour guide when he is not too busy.

Paterno said Winner hopes to raise enough money in the next few years to put up a plant and souvenir shop, an open-air auditorium, public comfort rooms, more benches, some lights, picnic tables, campsites for boy and girl scouts, a cafe for theater goers, hanging bridges and tree houses, pathways and a lagoon.

The park, which was closed two months ago due to controversy, has again opened to the public.

Winner said the place is now open daily, from 8 a.m. to 5 a.m. except on Mondays for "nature treks and science excursions."

For 2003, Paterno added, there will be more planting of secondary trees, particularly those that thrive in the shade.

She said the problem of flooding during the rainy season also has to be resolved.

"Floods have destroyed some of the nurse trees," the Winner president explained. "We will consult some agriculturists for possible solutions. As soon as the flooding is controlled, more ground cover can be planted."

Walkway

A portion of the park near the river has become part of the Pasig walkway project of the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission, and environment and tourism departments.

The commission has completed its construction of the boardwalk, a project funded by the Asian Development Bank, early this month.

The boardwalk—tree-lined, paved linear parks—are spaced about 10 meters from either side of the river.

Winner members as well as volunteers from the business and educational sectors continue to care for and guard the forest. Paterno said the park is not yet a full-pledge forest.

Following the master plan for the mini-forest made by landscape architech Wildredo Dizon, the Manila Seedling bank delivered the 3,500 saplings to the park, maintaining the plants for a year before turning them over to Winner.

A group of bird watchers from the Haribon Foundation for the Protection of Natural Resources actually wants construction and human activity minimized in the park so as not to scare away the birds that have made the forest their home.

The bird enthusiasts found six species of birds living in the forest park. They are the long-tailed shrike, brown shrike, zebra dove, pacific swallow, yellow-vested bulbul and pied fantail.

Paterno said she hopes that by opening the forest and providing educational tours and lectures, people will learn to love and care for the environment.

No epidemic, says Philracom

BARE EYE

Recab Trinidad

NOT TO worry, assures the Philippine Racing Commission. It was pure coincidence, it says, that their report on record earnings came on the heels of multiple race horse deaths following the April Fool's opening of the San Lorenzo Leisure Park in Carmona, Cavite. There's no epidemic of greed and irresponsibility in the local horse racing industry, swears the Philracom Chair whose letter we print here:

Dear Mr. Trinidad:

We are greatly concerned that your recent column referred to the Philracom as being involved in a deliberate cover-up of the real issues by simultaneously coming out with a recent report about the positive developments in the local horse racing industry.

The Philracom is not in any way involved in any damage control or cover-up as was alleged. The Philracom statement only emphasized that the Philracom was on top of the situation and that efforts have already been exerted to preserve the integrity of the sport and strictly regulate the conduct of its direct players, including the two race clubs.

The Philracom has been taking an active part in supervising the many changes that have taken place in the industry over the past few months, notably the transfer of Manila Jockey Club's racing operation from Manila to Carmona.

We believe that such a significant development should require our strict attention considering that it would have a tremendous impact on the lives of thousands of direct industry players, whose livelihood depend on the sport, as well as the government, which derives a substantial amount of revenue income from the industry's operation.

The Philracom has outlined a 14-point checklist of essential requirements to be set up at the new racing complex which would serve as a precondition to the grant of a temporary permit allowing MJCI to commence horse racing activities at the SLLP. In turn, the Philracom has conducted a series of exhaustive and meticulous on-site inspections on the new complex to ensure that the said essential requirements have already been put in place at the SLLP.

Following the conduct of the said inspections, the latest being held last March 28, the 7-man Philracom Board was finally convinced of MJCI's compliance and thereafter unanimously decided to finally grant MJCI the temporary permit to conduct horse racing activities at the SLLP starting April 1, 2003. Since then, MJCI has been able to successfully conduct 10 other race meetings at the SLLP.

***

Although we admit that certain problems have indeed cropped up as a result of MJCI's transfer of racing operation to Carmona, we maintain that all of these are still manageable and could only be expected as part of any pioneering venture.

We note with grave concern, however, the deliberate attempt of certain quarters to exaggerate on certain issues like the supposed growing number of horse fatalities and the alleged poor and dangerous racing surface at the SLLP.

We would like to inform you that prior to the start of any race meeting, a group of representatives from the Philracom, the concerned race club and the various sectors regularly conduct inspections on the actual racing surface to determine whether it is fit and safe for racing. No race meeting is ever conducted without the said certification and the Philracom will never allow the tinued conduct of racing activities hout such a guarantee.

As in any other part of the horse racing world, accidents are very much a part of this highly competitive sport. Such incidents or mishaps can happen in spite of all the precautions taken by the Philracom and the race club concerned and such is an accepted reality in horse racing. Just the same, we will also conduct further investigation on such matters in the interest of establishing the real cause of the reported incidents.

We would like to clarify however, the erroneous report about the alleged death of two more horses at the SLLP last Wednesday, April 16, 2003. The trainer of one of the said horse, Shining Pyramid, recently informed the Commission that the said horse did not die but only suffered an injury on its off fore after running in the third race.

In closing, we would like to seek your support and assistance in clarifying the real situation in the local horse racing industry. Although we admit that we are still a long way from achieving the desired and ideal situation, we are doing our best to help the local horse racing industry realize its full potential.

Jaime A. Dilag
Chairman, Philracom

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, April 23, 2003
Octave of East]er

1st Reading: Acts 3:1-10
Gospel: Lk 24:13-35

Two disciples of Jesus were going to Emmaus, a village seven miles from Jerusalem, and they talked about what had happened. While they were talking and wondering, Jesus came up and walked with them, but their eyes were held and they did not recognize him.

He asked, "What is this you are talking about?" The two stood still, looking sad. Then one named Cleophas answered, "Why, it seems you are the only traveller in Jerusalem who doesn't know what has happened there these past few days." And he asked, "What is it?"

They replied, "It is about Jesus of Nazareth. He was a prophet, you know, mighty in word and deed before God and the people. But the chief priests and our rulers sentenced him to death. They handed him over to be crucified. We had hoped that he would redeem Israel.

It is now the third day since all this took place. It is true that some women of our group have disturbed us. When they went to the tomb at dawn, they did not find his body; they came to tell us that they had seen a vision of angels who told them that Jesus was alive. Some friends of our group went to the tomb and found everything just as the women had said, but they did not see him."

He said to them, "How dull you are, how slow of understanding! You fail to believe the message of the prophets. Is it not written that the Christ should suffer all this and then enter his glory?" Then starting with Moses and going through the prophets, he explained to them everything in the Scriptures concerning himself.

As they drew near the village they were heading for, Jesus made as if to go farther. But they prevailed upon him, "Stay with us, for night comes quickly. The day is now almost over." So he went in to stay with them. When they were at table, he took the bread, said a blessing, broke it and gave each a piece (. . .).

Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; but he vanished out of their sight. And they said to each other, "Were not our hearts filled with ardent yearning when he was talking to us on the road and explaining the Scriptures?"

They immediately set out and returned to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and their companions gathered together. They were greeted by these words: "Yes, it is true, the Lord is risen! He has appeared to Simon!" Then the two told what had happened on the road and how Jesus made himself known when he broke bread with them.

Commentary

His disciples followed Jesus to Jerusalem believing that he would accomplish something great. After his death, Cleopas and another disciple, walked away from that city disillusioned. They could recount the story of Jesus accurately. They knew of the reports about his resurrection. But still, they could not make sense about it all. Then they encountered the Risen Jesus. At first, they mistook him for an ignorant stranger. Jesus explained the Scriptures to them and they were so enthused that they invited him to stay with them. He obliged. He broke bread with them. He vanished. But they had recognized him! The Risen Lord is present when the Scriptures is proclaimed . . . do our hearts burn? He is there when bread is broken . . . do we recognize him? Do we pray that he stay with us?

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METROBRIEFS

Snatchers nabbed

JOSEPH Gaspar, 29, and Dennis Nomasanta, 22, have been arrested for allegedly stealing the necklace of Maria Venia in Makati City Monday morning. Venia told police that while she was waiting for a passenger bus on Edsa in Guadalupe, the suspects came up from behind her, grabbed her necklace and fled toward the Laperal compound. Barangay watchmen noticed the commotion and ran after the suspects. The watchmen recovered the necklace and turned over the suspects to the Makati Police. ***Maria Khristina Villanueva***

Shooter beaten up

EDGARDO Bataan was beaten up by angry bystanders after he allegedly shot Jacobo Magdaloyo in Quezon City Sunday night. Bataan, 32, of Barangay Commonwealth, Quezon City, is now being treated at the East Avenue Medical Center. PO1 Joseph Medina of the Central Police District said the suspect was high on drugs when he started playing with a .38-caliber revolver out in the street near his house at around 12:30 p.m. Magdaloyo, 73, happened to pass by, and the suspect shot him in the foot. When the victim cried for help from bystanders, the latter chased the suspect and mauled him until barangay watchmen arrived and took the suspect in custody. ***Alcuin Papa***

Body fished out

ANOTHER dead man was fished out of Manila Bay on Sunday night. But unlike the other recovered bodies, whom police believed were "salvage victims," the man found was said to have drowned after two men chased him into the bay. The unidentified man was described as 30 to 35 years old, slim, and clad only in black denim shorts, said Detective Virgo Villareal. Police said the victim was drunk when he ran amuck at the skating rink beside the Quirino Grandstand early that evening. The man allegedly ran away and jumped into the bay when two bystanders tried to pacify him. Villareal said Philippine Coast Guard officers saw the body floating off the PCG headquarters at Manila's South Harbor at around 10:30 p.m. ***Philip Tubeza***

Tourist robbed

JAPANESE tourist Ichikawa Hiroshi on Monday told police that he was robbed at the Plaza Raja Sulayman in Malate, Manila on Easter Sunday. But the police are doubting Hiroshi's complaint, saying that there were too many lawmen in the area for the robbery to have happened. They said the victim might only be after the insurance money which he would come to collect in Japan. Hiroshi, 45, currently staying at the Dakota Mansion, told police that he was walking near the Aristocrat restaurant at around 9:30 p.m. when a man snatched his Louis Vuitton bag containing his valuables worth P125,000, said PO3 Delfin Silva. Hiroshi said the suspect was around 33 years old and stood at about 5-foot-4. ***Philip Tubeza***

Surgeons meet

THE midyear convention of the Philippine College of Surgeons this year will be held in San Fernando, La Union, on May 9 and 10. Dr. Fernando Lopez, PCS president, said the convention will focus on continuing surgical education for busy Fellows in the provinces. Senior Fellows will be invited as speakers, panelists or reactors to discuss all new thoughts about surgical issues.

Velasco: Slain men were criminals

By Alcuin Papa

THEY were really criminals.

This was how Deputy Director General Reynaldo Velasco described the five men who were killed in Sunday's shootout with the Quezon City police.

A professor of the University of the Philippines yesterday also identified the slain suspects as the same men who burglarized his home last month.

Erwin Alampay, 32, a professor of the UP College of Public Administration and resident of Alpha Village, Quezon City, yesterday told members of the the Central Police's District Criminal Investigation Unit that one of the five suspects killed in Sunday's encounter, forcibly entered his house on March 20, hogtied him and his family, and took their cell phones, jewelry and cash.

Police said brothers Sergio, Eufemio, Edward and Florencio Pitulan, and Augusto Torres, were killed in a shootout in Barangay Bahay Toro, Quezon City last Sunday. A sixth man, Glicerio Pitulan, has been arrested. PO1 Aldie Monteroso was also killed in the gun battle.

Velasco, chief of the National Capital Region Police Office, revealed that the group that engaged Quezon City policemen in a shootout were members of a robbery gang that operates in Metro Manila and adjacent provinces.

ANTI-SARS MEASURE
Chito Macapagal (left) of Unilever gives Edgardo Manda, of the Manila International Airport Authority, the products needed to contain the spread of SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) in the country. Benjie Yap also of Unilever looks on.

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SARS scare sends stars to Boracay

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

WITH Hong Kong scratched from show biz people's lists of favorite destinations during Holy Week because of the dreaded SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome), Boracay became the most popular alternative, and it was definitely not a bad choice.

Eyewitnesses say show biz couples, babes and hunks littered the shore of the resort island.

Bong Revilla Jr. was there with his whole family. Wife **Lani Mercado** was a head-turner on the beach in her one-piece swimsuit, while their son **Jolo** attracted his share of attention.

Show biz sweethearts **Claudine Barretto** and **Raymart Santiago** weren't hiding anymore, although they preferred not to mingle with the beach crowd.

A foursome were **Rachel Alejandro** and **Lee Robin Salazar**, and **Geneva Cruz** and **KC Montero**. KC played surrogate dad to Geneva's son (with former Introvoys band member **Paco Arespacochaga**) **Heaven**.

Hans Montenegro and **Maritoni Fernandez** were a coo-some twosome. So were **Michael de Mesa** and his pretty girlfriend, **Julie**.

Sunshine Dizon and **Mikko Sotto** held hands while walking on the beach.

Young singer/TV host **Champagne Morales** dauntlessly donned a bikini, to the delight of paparazzi and oglers. Her mom **Dinah Dominguez** was nowhere in sight.

Sexy star **Michelle Bayle** paraded on the beach and posed with everyone who wanted a picture with her.

Lucky Manzano displayed his buffed "Human" bod. So did the good-looking Turvey twins **Brad** and **Greg**.

Cogie Domingo enjoyed water surfing, while ex-Power Boy **Geoff Rodriguez** and Power Boy **Greg Martin** got their tan.

With **Anne Curtis** on the beach, could boyfriend **Oyo Boy Sotto** be far behind? Oyo Boy, however, was accompanied by his elder sister, **Danica**, who was a sexy figure on the beach, too.

Also spotted on the island was PBA's Red Bull prized cager **Vince Hizon**. But where was his ladylove, **Patricia Bermudez**?

Dino Guevarra was with his live-in partner **Kim de los Santos**, who, with her heavy figure, did not frolic on the beach. Kim gained weight when she got pregnant with her love child with Dino and she has not regained her former shape.

Others who enjoyed the water, sand and sun were **Eula Valdez**, **Kristine Hermosa**, **Vandolph Quizon**, **JM Rodriguez**, **Dale Villar**, **Willie Revillame** and **Keempee de Leon**.

Designer **Frederick Peralta** was by his lonesome, but he was never wanting for somebody to chat with whether on the beach or in any happening place on the island.

VERSATILE. Emilio Garcia sexy again.

The Bernal touch

THE FIRST time I watched a **Joyce Bernal** flick, "Dahil May Isang Ikaw," with **Aga Muhlach** and **Regine Velasquez**, I was thrilled and entertained by the light and charming romance-drama that had touches of comedy.

Bernal scored box-office hits with other movies like "Kailangan Ko'y Ikaw" with **Robin Padilla** and Regine, "Pagdating ng Panahon" with **Sharon Cuneta** and Robin, and "Pangako, Ikaw Lang" with Aga and Regine again. She also displayed her directing flair in the comedy "Booba" with **Rufa Mae Quinto** and the action-drama "Buhay Kamao," which starred Robin.

Bernal is back with her latest work, "Till There Was You," starring **Piolo Pascual** and **Judy Ann Santos**. Opening on April 30, it is Bernal's first for Star Cinema.

Judy Ann is Joanna, a carefree girl who agrees to play surrogate mom to Piolo's daughter, although he is not her boyfriend. Piolo plays a lawyer who has a child from a one-night stand woman he doesn't love.

Judy Ann and Piolo have a love scene that reportedly made Judy Ann blush after the take.

Morrocan-inspired

SEXY stars **Jenny Rosenthal** and **Kristine Jaca** will model Tabú Swimwear in a fashion show, "Morrocan Dusk," tonight at Dish, 3rd Level of Rockwell's Power Plant Mall.

Established by **Amanda Griffin** and **Isabel Engwa** in 2000, Tabú Swimwear opened its first store in 2001 and introduced the most stylish, resilient and extensive range of Australian swimwear into the country.

The Moroccan-inspired fashion show will also feature **Tanya Paulsen**, **Phoemela Baranda**, **Nicolette Bell** and **Kyla Fernandez**.

The show is produced by PEG Inc. and is presented by Nivea.

Marc Nelson and **Marco Lobregat** will do bartending chores after the fashion show.

Tickets are at P350 for men, while women can get in free. Call Dish at 898-1771 or 898-1824. Doors open at 9 p.m.

Lead again

EMILIO Garcia has had his heyday playing villain roles both in movies and on TV. In the forthcoming sex-drama flick, "Punla," he is in a lead role again, this time opposite controversial sexy star **Tracy Torres**.

Emilio has starred in money-making sex-dramas with top sexy stars like **Rosanna Roces**. But he says, "I want to be known as a versatile actor."

In "Punla," he plays devoted husband to Tracy but he can't give her a child. She goes looking for another man who can give her a baby.

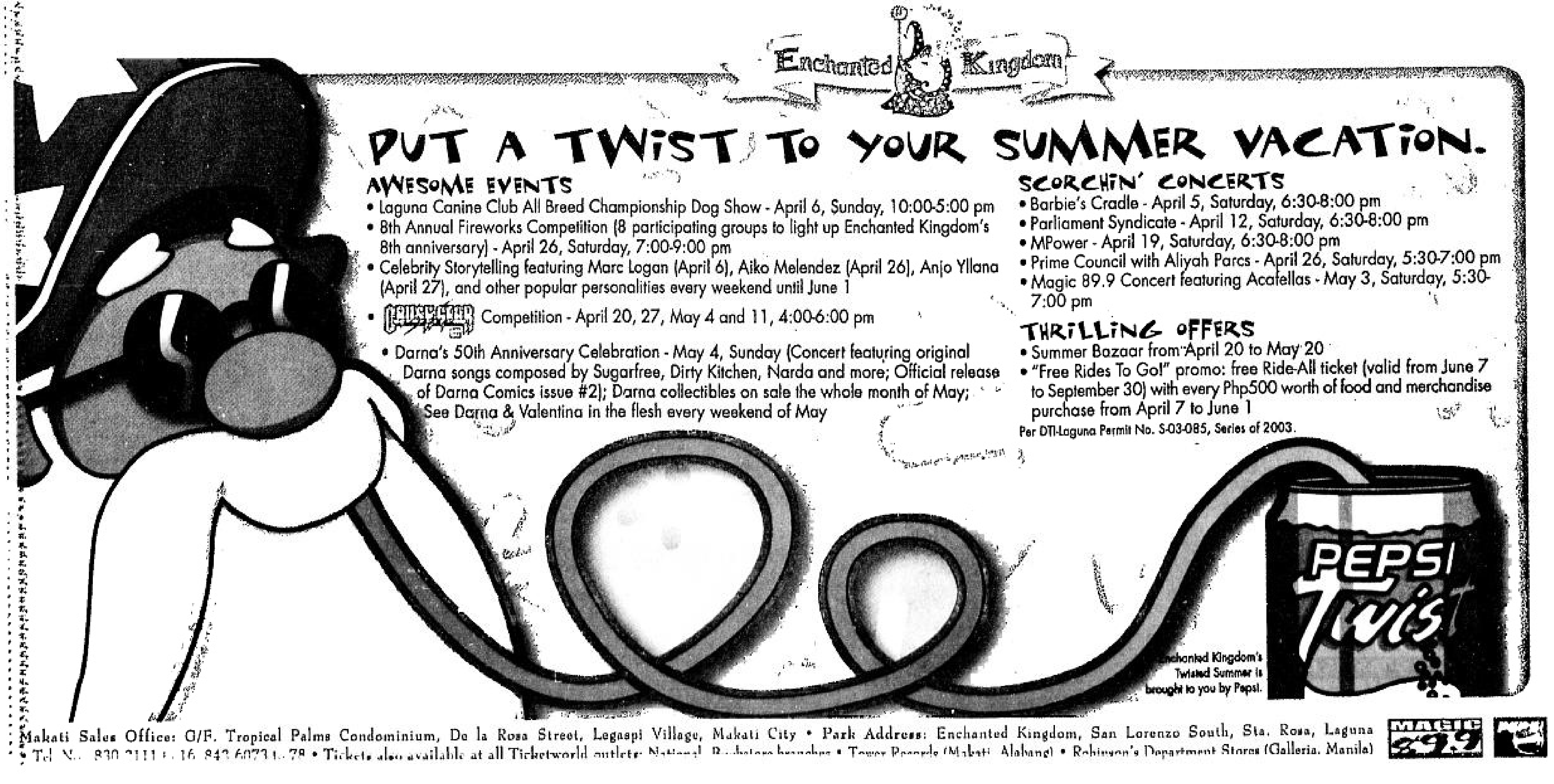
Emilio calls Tracy "gutsy."

On TV, Emilio has just ended his stint in ABS-CBN's top-rating soap, "Bituin," where he played a man torn between **Jessa Zaragoza** and **Cherie Gil**. He is set to start a new series soon.

"Punla," which opens April 23, also stars **John Apacible** and newcomer **Eric Parilla**.

"KILIG" FACTOR. Piolo Pascual and Judy Ann Santos pour on the syrup in Joyce Bernal's "Till There Was You."

Ngayong pinalamig, lalong sumarap
april
Flavor of the Month
ICE CREAM
Nestlé
Champorado
ICE CREAM
Chocolate-flavored ice cream with sticky rice bits.



Enchanted Kingdom

PUT A TWIST TO YOUR SUMMER VACATION.

AWESOME EVENTS
- Laguna Canine Club All Breed Championship Dog Show - April 6, Sunday, 10:00-5:00 pm
- 8th Annual Fireworks Competition (8 participating groups to light up Enchanted Kingdom's 8th anniversary) - April 26, Saturday, 7:00-9:00 pm
- Celebrity Storytelling featuring Marc Logan (April 6), Aiko Melendez (April 26), Anjo Yllana (April 27), and other popular personalities every weekend until June 1
- CAUSE FEAR Competition - April 20, 27, May 4 and 11, 4:00-6:00 pm
- Darna's 50th Anniversary Celebration - May 4, Sunday (Concert featuring original Darna songs composed by Sugarfree, Dirty Kitchen, Narda and more; Official release of Darna Comics issue #2); Darna collectibles on sale the whole month of May; See Darna & Valentina in the flesh every weekend of May

SCORCHIN' CONCERTS
- Barbie's Cradle - April 5, Saturday, 6:30-8:00 pm
- Parliament Syndicate - April 12, Saturday, 6:30-8:00 pm
- MPower - April 19, Saturday, 6:30-8:00 pm
- Prime Council with Aliyah Parcs - April 26, Saturday, 5:30-7:00 pm
- Magic 89.9 Concert featuring Acafellas - May 3, Saturday, 5:30-7:00 pm

THRILLING OFFERS
- Summer Bazaar from April 20 to May 20
- "Free Rides To Go!" promo: free Ride-All ticket (valid from June 7 to September 30) with every Php500 worth of food and merchandise purchase from April 7 to June 1

Per DTI-Laguna Permit No. S-03-085, Series of 2003.

Enchanted Kingdom's Twisted Summer is brought to you by Pepsi.

Makati Sales Office: G/F. Tropical Palms Condominium, De la Rosa Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City • Park Address: Enchanted Kingdom, San Lorenzo South, Sta. Rosa, Laguna
Tel. No. 830-2111 loc. 16, 843-6073 loc. 78 • Tickets also available at all Ticketworld outlets: National Bookstore branches • Tower Records (Makati, Alabang) • Robinson's Department Stores (Galleria, Manila)

Erap downfall not part ...

From page A32

Floro Crisologo in the movie will be played by Eddie Garcia. Crisologo's son, Vincent "Bingbong" Crisologo, will be played by Tirso Cruz III.

The Crisologo-Singson story was violent politics that led to the six attempts on Singson's life and the burning of entire villages in Bantay town in 1970. On May 22, that year, armed men descended on a village in Bantay and burned houses. In the afternoon, they burned houses in another village, killing an old woman.

Bingbong Crisologo was identified as the mastermind of the arson and was jailed at the national penitentiary in Muntinlupa. Crisologo later became a Christian minister whose life also became a popular movie, "Bingbong, the Vincent Crisologo Story," in the early 1990s. Rudy Fernandez played Bingbong.

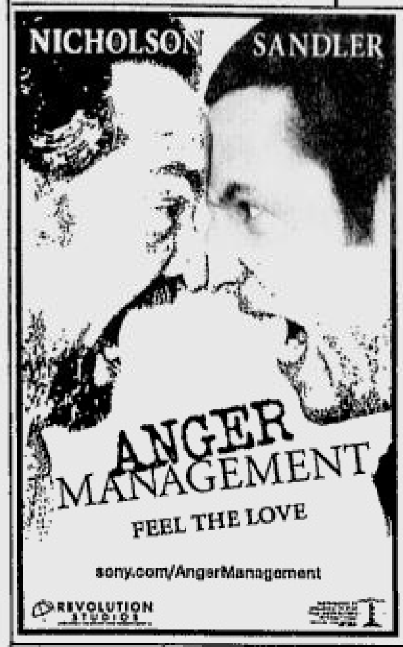
Singson was incensed when Bingbong's movie became a box -office hit, and he decided to plan his own biopic. That plan fizzled out.

Singson said he survived the attempts on his life because of the amulets given to him by Vigan elders. "Some gave me amulets, others gave me magic oil (*lana*) and secret prayers," he said. "I don't know which worked for me."

DISCUSSING THE "CHAVIT" MOVIE. Singson (right, seated) with actor Cesar Montano (left) and director Carlo J. Caparas.

DID YOU KNOW...

SEN. **Manny Villar** was seen holding hands with a pretty young thing at Greenbelt 3 while coming out of a movie screening. But before the tireless Las Piñas Rep. **Cynthia Villar** raises her eyebrows, our source learned that the young woman with the senator is the couple's only daughter, **Camille**. Father and daughter have also been seen together at The Podium in Ortigas Center in Pasig City.



MTRCB ► R-13 | Strictly for 13 years of age and up

Adam Sandler, Jack Nicholson offer non-stop laughs in fun, new comedy

In the No. 1 comedy in America, Adam Sandler and Jack Nicholson star together for the first time as patient and therapist .-- though at times it's hard to tell which one is which!

After a misunderstanding aboard an airplane, mild-mannered Dave Buznik (Sandler) is ordered to attend anger management sessions run by outrageous psychiatrist Dr. Buddy Rydell (Nicholson).

Tortured by Buddy's wacky and abrasive confrontational methods, Dave must decide whether to crawl back into his shell or stand up for himself, and keep his girl (Marisa Tomei) along the way.

With surprise appearances by top celebrities.

OPENS TODAY!

POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

JUNGLE BOOK 2 **GP** **EQUILIBRIUM** **R13**	**ANGER MANAGEMENT** **R13** 1:00,3:20,5:40, 8:00,10:20	**PHONE BOOTH** **R13** 12:35,2:30,4:25, 6:20,8:15,10:10
WHAT A GIRL WANTS **GP** 1:20,3:30,5:40, 7:50,10:00	**A MAN APART** **R13** 12:25,2:45,5:05, 7:25,9:45	**JOHNNY ENGLISH** **P13** 12:10,2:10,4:10, 6:10,8:10,10:10

MATINEE P80.00 - FREE SEATING - SCREENINGS BEFORE 5 PM - MON. TO FRI.

Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7	
Ali 1	EQUILIBRIUM
Ali 2	A MAN APART
Ali 3	ANGER MANAGEMENT
Ali 4	JOHNNY ENGLISH
Ali 5	PHONE BOOTH
Ali 6	JUNGLE BOOK 2
Ali 7	WHAT A GIRL WANTS
FARMERS PLAZA CINEMAS	
Farmers 1	A MAN APART
Farmers 2	BOLD STAR
ARANETA COLISEUM	
APR 23	NCA 7 COCK DERBY
APR 27	PBA GAMES
MAY 9 & 10	MARTIN & REGINE CONCERT

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DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX
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CINEMA 1	**JOHNNY ENGLISH** 11:10, 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00 **P13**
CINEMA 2	**WHAT A GIRL WANTS** 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50 **GP**

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.
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APR 29.2003 "THIS is ME" (Ana Llanes) 9:00PM
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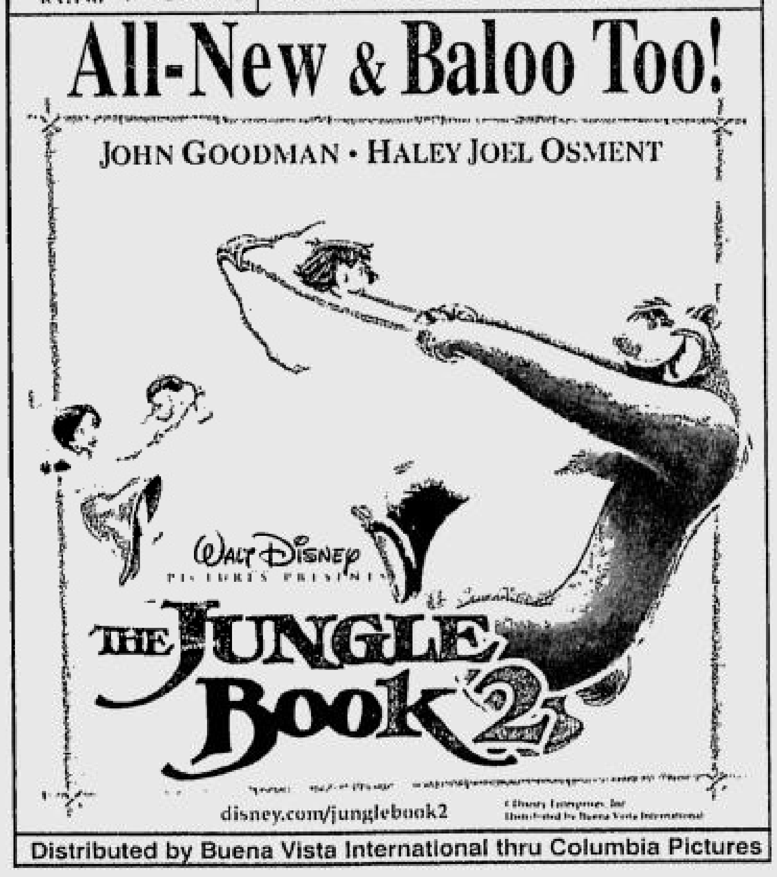
THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	MATAMIS HANGGANG DULO/BETTER THAN SEX
ODEON	THE CORE
ODEON-2	BUSINESS FOR PLEASURE/KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ROBEN	SEX DRIVE
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	BELOW EXTREMIST
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	PORNOGRAPHER / IKA-7 GLORIA
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	VIRGIN PEOPLE
REMAR	SEX DRIVE
REMAR-2	COPU QUIRINO STORY
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	PUNLA
B	BOLD STAR
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	WHAT A GIRL WANTS
CINEMA-2	THE JUNGLE BOOK 2
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	KASIPING
CINEMA-2	BOLDSTAR
CINEMA-3	PUNLA
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	PHONE BOOTH
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	KANGAROO JACK
CINEMA-6	SEX DRIVE
CINEMA-7	THE CORE
CINEMA-8	KAULAYAW
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	WHAT A GIRL WANTS
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	ANGER MANAGEMENT
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	JOHNNY ENGLISH
CINEMA-12	A MAN APART
CINEMA-14	EQUILIBRIUM
CINEMA-15	JUNGLE BOOK 2
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
CINEMA 1	DIE ANOTHER DAY
CINEMA 2	BAHID
CINEMA 3	HARRY POTTER
CINEMA 4	CHANGING LANES
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA



OPENS TODAY!

MTRCB RATING ► G General Patronage | ALL AGES ADMITTED

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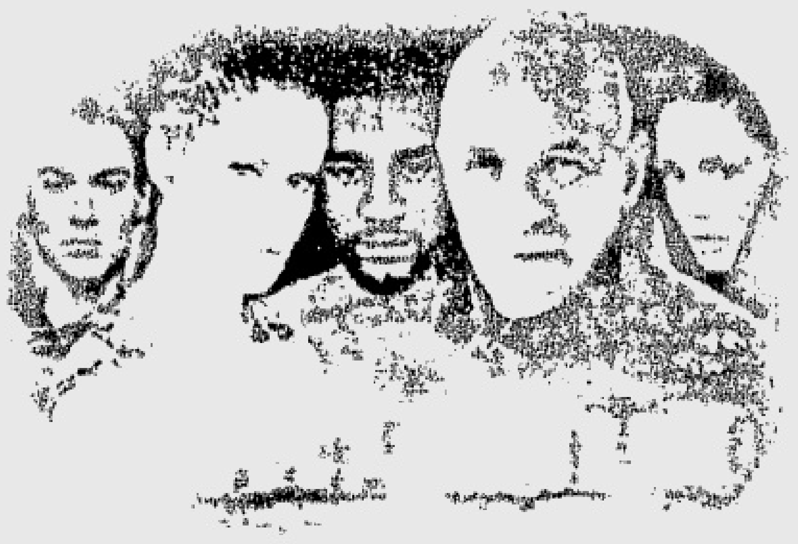
JOHN GOODMAN • HALEY JOEL OSMENT
Walt Disney Pictures Presents
THE JUNGLE BOOK 2
disney.com/junglebook2

Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures



AYALA CINEMAS

OPENS TODAY ONLY AT
GREENBELT 1
ArtFilm
DARING. AWARD-WINNING. EXTRAORDINARY

Love, revenge and power form a deadly struggle in this fierce Roman drama by Shakespeare.

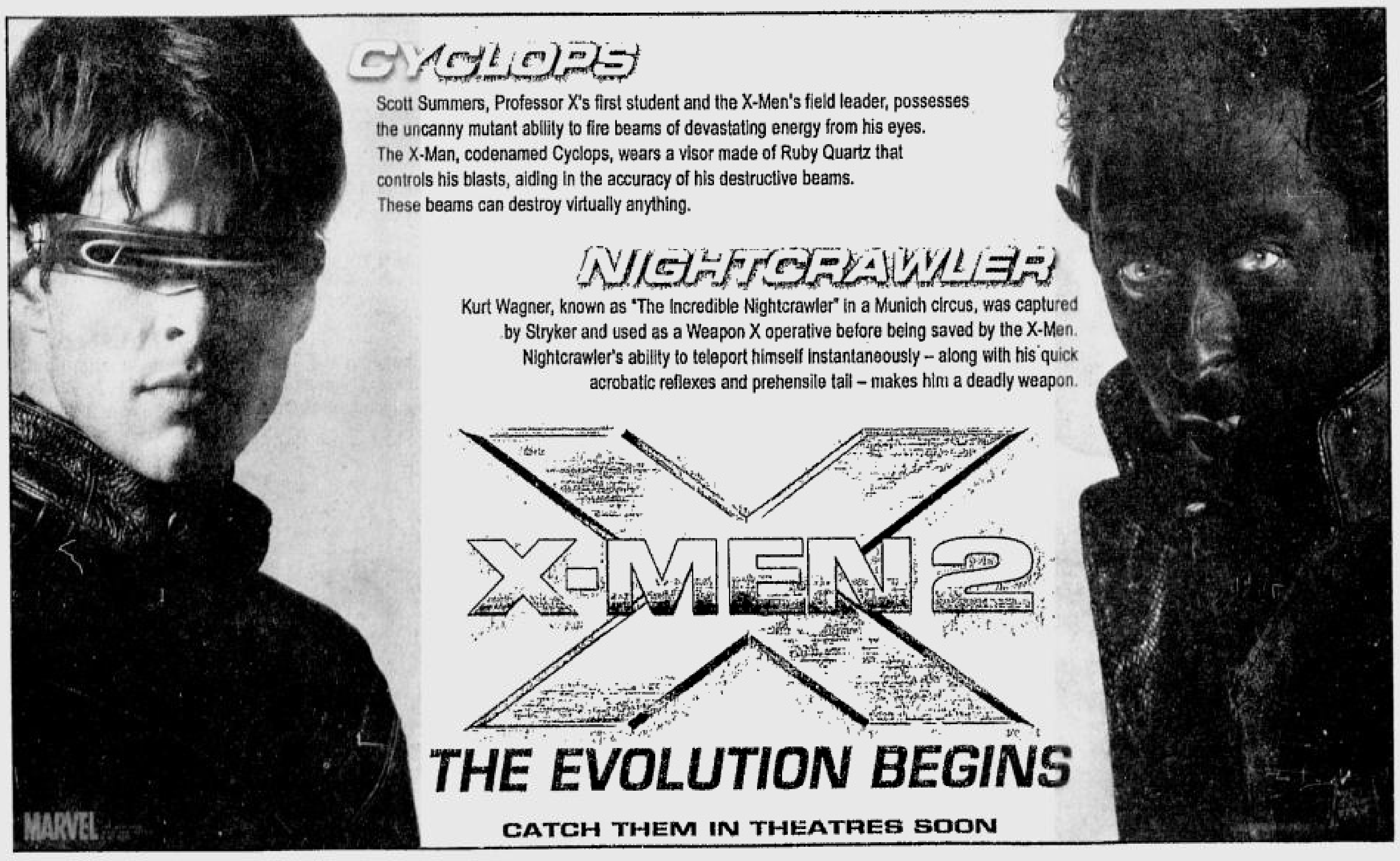
TITUS

ANTHONY HOPKINS & JESSICA LANGE
Harry J. Lennix, Alan Cumming, Laura Fraser

In this epic tale of revenge based upon the play of William Shakespeare, Anthony Hopkins stars as Titus Andronicus, the Roman general who sows the seeds of vengeance when he executes the son of the enemy Queen, played by Jessica Lange. The repercussions of his action are revealed when the vindictive woman becomes the new wife of the Roman Emperor.

COFFEE CLUB DISCUSSION ON "TITUS"
TODAY - April 23 at 7pm.
For inquiries, contact 752-7866 or 752-7872.

SKYFILMS NOKIA INQUIRER



CYCLOPS

Scott Summers, Professor X's first student and the X-Men's field leader, possesses the uncanny mutant ability to fire beams of devastating energy from his eyes. The X-Man, codenamed Cyclops, wears a visor made of Ruby Quartz that controls his blasts, aiding in the accuracy of his destructive beams. These beams can destroy virtually anything.

NIGHTCRAWLER

Kurt Wagner, known as "The Incredible Nightcrawler" in a Munich circus, was captured by Stryker and used as a Weapon X operative before being saved by the X-Men. Nightcrawler's ability to teleport himself instantaneously – along with his quick acrobatic reflexes and prehensile tail – makes him a deadly weapon.

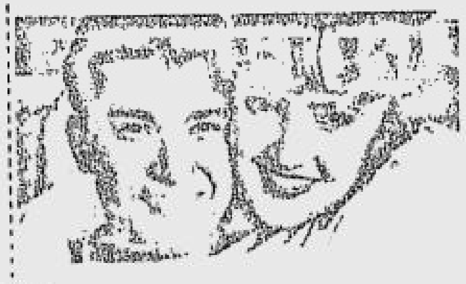
Desert islands, paracutes and other boob-tube booboos

DID YOU KNOW...

COUPLE **Albert** and **Liezl Martinez** had a good laugh watching the one-man comedy act of **Rex Navarrete** last April 10 at the popular Dish outlet of the Power Plant Mall of Rockwell.

Albert said their three children—**Alyanna, Alfonso** and **Alyssandra**—were bored at home and wanted to go with them to the show.

But Rex had jokes for an adult audience, so the kids had no choice but to stay home.



VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

HOST: What are you doing to make sure that there will be no terrorist attacks during this Holy Week season?

Guest: We are concentrating our security measures in airports, piers and bus terminals.

Host: In what way, specifically?

Guest: Well, for one, *sa lahat ng bapor ngayon, may nagkalat na iba't-ibang klase ng mga* canine dogs.

(Is there any other kind of dog? Woof!)

***

Host: What about SARS? What should be the public's right attitude about it?

Guest: Don't be too paranoidly afraid!

(Paranoidly afraid? *Bago 'yon, a.*)

***

Host: Now that you've won your first acting award, how will this affect your career decisions from now on?

Guest: Well, *magiging mas mapili na ako from now on sa aking mga* roles—*pero hindi pa rin ako titigil sa pagbo*-bold.

(Huh?!)

***

Host: Now that you're no longer in show biz, what do you do with your spare time?

Guest: Oh, I have businesses, also hobbies.

Host: Hobbies?

Guest: Yes, I now paint with my spare time!

(Uh, come again?)

***

Host: Now, for some questions to reveal how you look at life. Are you ready?

Guest: Ok, shoot.

Host: What CD would you bring if you were trapped on a desert island?

(What in the world is that island doing in the desert?!)

***

Host: How did you feel when you didn't win the award this year?

Guest: Honestly, I'm a frustrated!

(*Bitin!*)

***

Host: Many people are hitting you these days, but you still look cheerful. What's your secret?

Guest: Simple: Despite all of what been saying against me, I don't listen to negatives, I just listen to positives!

(Duh!)

***

Host: Why do you use this particular brand of tissue?

Guest: Simply and honestly, it's because it's absorb more *pawis*!

(*Ay*, it's absorb!)

***

Host: What sport would you like to learn this summer?

Guest: I want to learn how to do paracute jumping!

(How—cute!)

***

Host: Your technique of painting, solar art, is so unique. How do you do it?

Guest: Actually, it looks unique, but it's really simple. All you need is the sun and a magnifying glass.

Host: What kind of magnifying glass?

Guest: Nothing special. *Basta*, the rule is, the more the thick *niya, lalo nakakasunog!*

(Ah, so...)

***

Guest: What kinds of paper should we use for solar art?

Guest: Any, *basta* thick. *Puwedeng* handmade paper *at* plywood!

(Kinds of paper *sabi, e!*)

Auditions

THE SAN Miguel Foundation for the Performing Arts is now accepting applications for the San Miguel Philharmonic Orchestra and the San Miguel Master Chorale. Auditions for professional violinists and double bass players for the orchestra, and sopranos and basses for the choir will be held on April 25 at the basement level, San Miguel Corporation Head Office Complex. For details, call **Deo Dipasupil** at 632-3769.

'Prehistoric Earth'

DISCOVERY Channel brings "Prehistoric Earth" back to life with a special week-long programming event starting on April 27.

At 9 p.m., the channel airs the two-hour special "Before We Ruled the Earth," which takes viewers on an odyssey through evolution, from Homo Ergaster in Africa 1.7 million years ago, to Paleo-Indians living in North America 11,000 years ago.

Other presentations during the week: "What Killed the Mega Beasts" and "When Dinosaurs Ruled: At the Ends of the Earth."

English for OFWs

CORBAN Learning Center and Vine Communications will hold an "English for OFWs" for Filipinos who would like to improve their facility in the English language. The seminar focuses on conversational English, speech and pronunciation.

It will be held on May 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31, and comes in two levels: Classes for beginners are from 1 to 3 p.m., and intermediate level classes are from 3 to 5 p.m. Call 700-1299 (Cubao) or 809-3050 (Parañaque).

Cinema Paradiso

FILMS to be shown as part of the Cinema Paradiso series: April 23, **Lino Brocka**'s "Santiago." April 24, **Manuel Conde**'s "El Robo." April 25, "Biglang Yaman" with **Rosa Rosal**. April 28, "Nukso nang Nukso" with **Pugo** and **Bentot**. April 29, **Mar S. Torres'** "Apat na Taga." And April 30, **Romero's** "Huling Mandirigma." Screenings are held at the NCCA building in Intramuros.

The Cinema Paradiso catalogue launch was held yesterday, with film master **Eddie Romero** who shared his experiences in filmmaking. Romero was joined by **Bienvenido Lumbera** and **Pablo S. Gomez.**

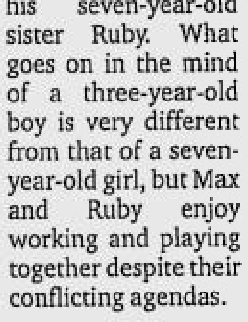
'Max and Ruby'

THE NICKELODEON Channel airs the new children's show, "Max and Ruby," 8:30 a.m. on Mondays.

"Max and Ruby" is based on popular children's author and illustrator **Rosemary Wells'** popular book series, which has sold millions of copies since 1979.

The new half-hour animated series for preschoolers celebrates the bond between siblings and the triumph of the individual child against the challenges of being little.

Each episode centers around Max, a preschool bunny and his seven-year-old sister Ruby. What goes on in the mind of a three-year-old boy is very different from that of a seven-year-old girl, but Max and Ruby enjoy working and playing together despite their conflicting agendas.

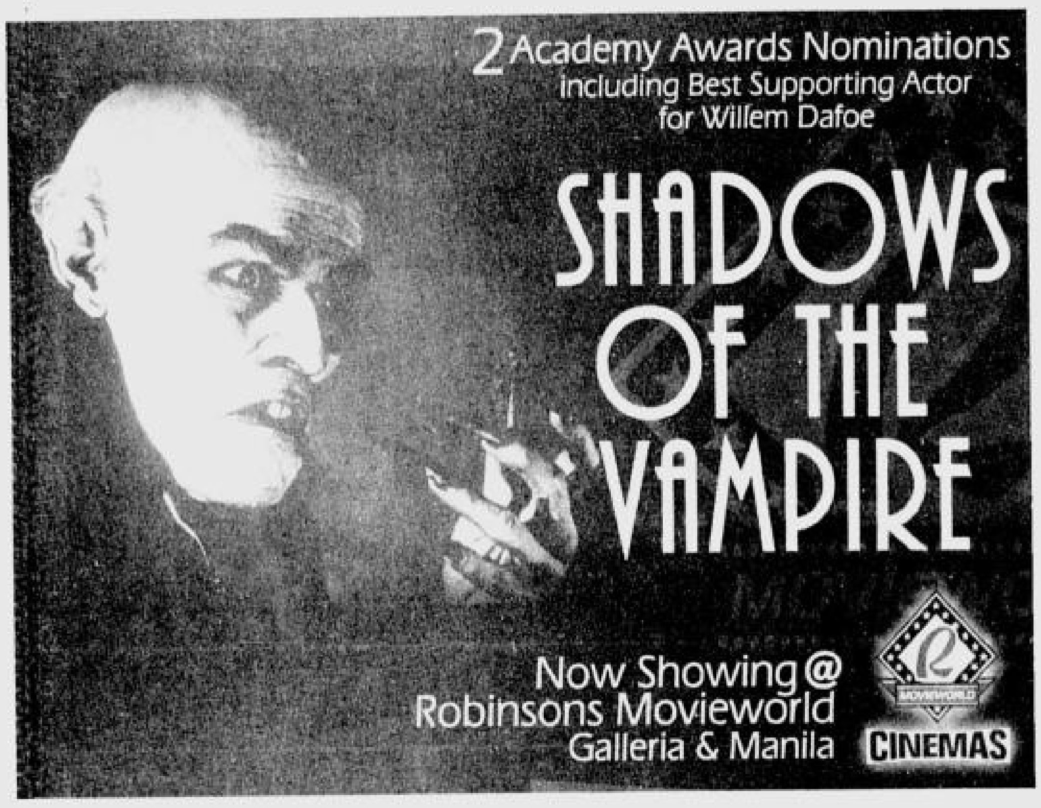


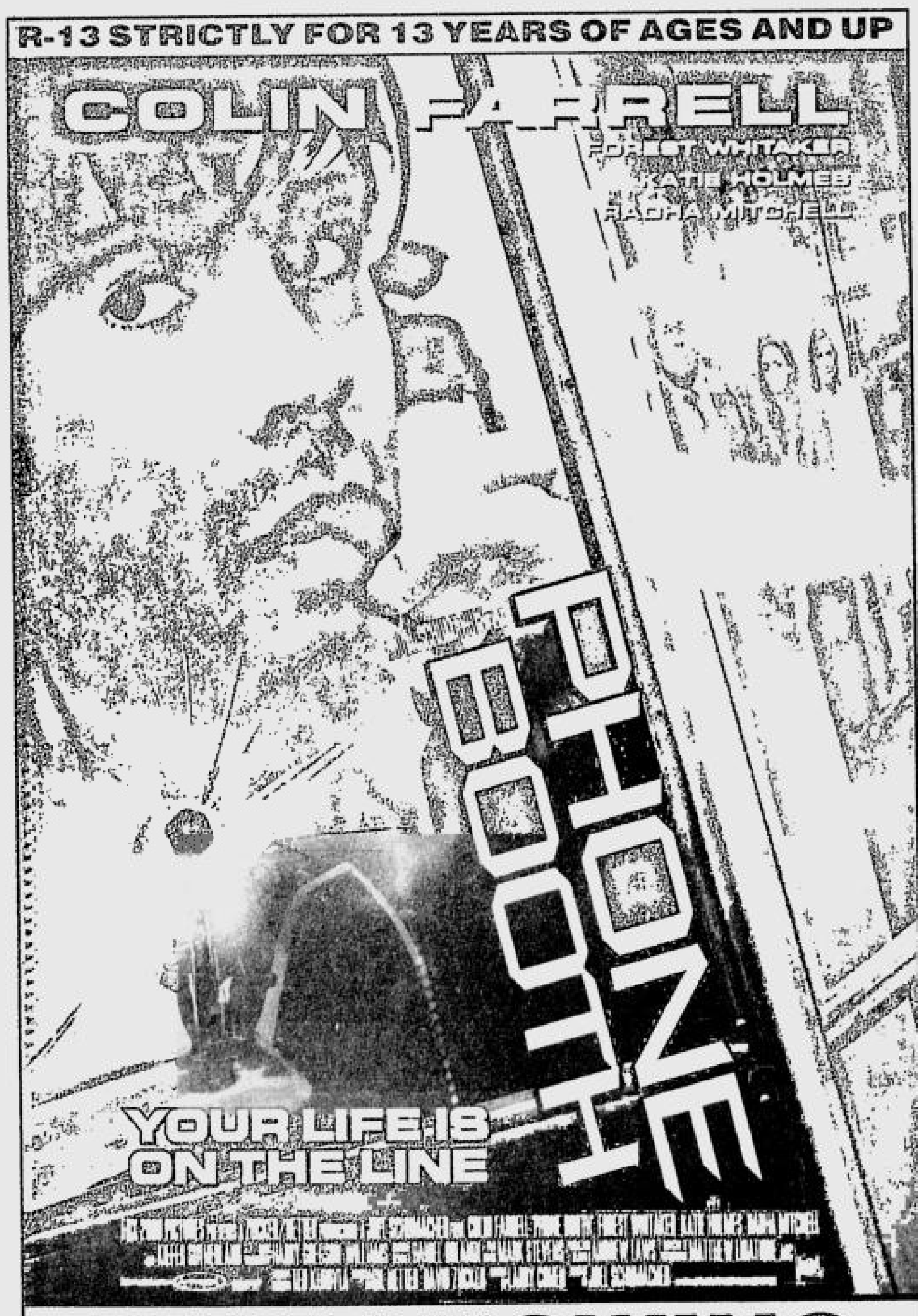
MANOTOC

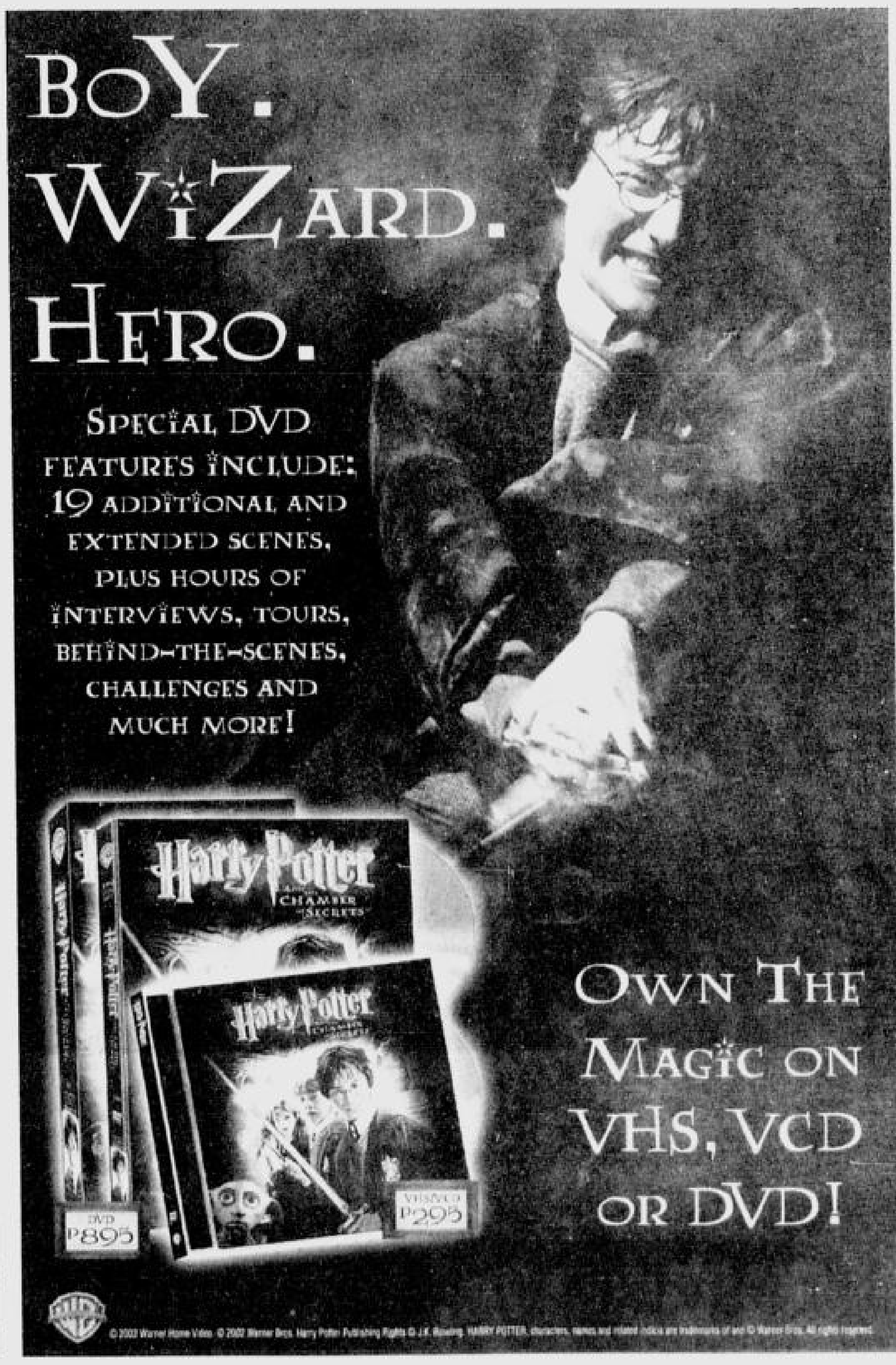
M GUIAO PUNZALAN

DID YOU KNOW...

TALK has it that **TJ Manotoc**, host of "Unang Hirit" on GMA 7, is being wooed by ABS-CBN executives to join the latter network's early morning magazine show "Magandang Umaga Bayan." A reformat of the "MUB" show is also said to be in the offing, with **Tessie Tomas** joining the new "MUB" group.


2 Academy Awards Nominations
including Best Supporting Actor
for Willem Dafoe
SHADOWS OF THE VAMPIRE
Now Showing @
Robinsons Movieworld
Galleria & Manila
MOVIEWORLD
CINEMAS


R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGES AND UP
COLIN FARRELL
FOREST WHITAKER
KATIE HOLMES
RADHA MITCHELL
PHONE BOOTH
YOUR LIFE IS ON THE LINE
NOW SHOWING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ANOTHER GREENBELT 1 THEMED EVENT
On the 23th of April to the 6th of May, prepare yourself as the Redcoats invade Greenbelt 1!
Titus, a tragedy by Shakespeare
Showing in ArtFilm, April 23 to May 6, 2003
Coffee Club discussion on the film Titus
Screening will be at Cinema 2, Greenbelt 1 on April 23, 7pm with the discussion following immediately after.
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Showing in Greenbelt 1 Cinema starting April 19
Poetry Reading
April 26 and May 3, 7pm Greenbelt Cafe Row.
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ENTERTAINMENT
Editor Louie C. Camino

DID YOU KNOW...

REGINE Velasquez and Jolina Magdangal watched the recent "Crossover Presents" show of comedian Rex Navarette at the Mandarin Oriental, but the two stars hardly laughed.

Erap downfall not part of Chavit movie

By Frank Cimatu and Leoncio Balbin Jr.
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

THE TRUTH and nothing but, says Singson.

VIGAN CITY — The movie about the man whose "juetengate" exposé led to the downfall of former President Joseph Estrada will not include the toppling of the former actor.

This early, however, there are already plans for a follow-up to "Chavit of Ilocos," the movie based on the life of Luis "Chavit" Singson.

The political kingpin of Ilocos Sur just laughed when asked if the movie would have "ST" scenes. He said he insisted on including in the movie all the six ambush attempts on his life, in the late 1960s and early 1970s, which is why the movie would not cover his role in toppling his erstwhile friend, former President Estrada.

The Chavit biopic will not have "ST" ("sexually titillating") scenes, Singson himselfsaid.

He is not even particular about who will play him (action star Cesar Montano, who once played national hero Jose Rizal) or his wife (reportedly dramatic actress Dina Bonnevie). If he's exacting about anything at all regarding the movie, which will start shooting here next month, it is that it would be "ST" or "simply true."

"It will be a true-to-life story and I will make sure that everything in the movie is true," he said. "No scenes would be added. We should stick to the truth."

Singson said he chose Carlo J. Caparas, known for his massacre and other sensational movies, to direct his biopic not because he wants to hype his life story but because Caparas has been bugging him all these years.

"Many producers had been proposing to make my movie but he was the most persistent," Singson said.

The former Ilocos Sur governor said the movie would cost P50 million, although he is silent on who would finance it.

Singson said the most serious attempt on his life was made in 1972 in Cabugao town where two grenades were thrown while he was attending a party.

"More than 500 people were hurt," he recalled. "When I went to the hospital, you could literally see blood flowing all over."

"Chavit of Ilocos" will tell of his life in Vigan from boyhood until he became an embalmer and eventually the town's police chief.

Singson first ventured into politics in 1967 when he was elected councilor of Vigan. In 1969, he decided to challenge his uncle, Ilocos Sur Rep. Floro Crisologo, who was then the acknowledged political kingpin in the province, but Singson lost.

Crisologo was assassinated while praying at the St. Paul Cathedral in Vigan in 1970.

Singson ran for governor in 1971 and beat his aunt, the incumbent Gov. Carmeling Crisologo, Floro's widow. Singson became the new boss of Ilocos Sur politics.

ERAP/ A30

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3-month budget deficit hits ₱58.9B

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE GOVERNMENT yesterday said its budget deficit in the first three months of the year reached P58.9 billion, exceeding its target ceiling for the period of P55.2 billion by 6.7 percent.

The amount, however, was lower than the P61.21-billion shortfall a year ago mainly due to improved revenue collections this year.

Despite the higher-than-expected first quarter budget shortfall, the government said it was still confident of meeting its 2003 deficit ceiling of P202 billion or 4.7 percent of the gross domestic product.

In March, alone, the budget gap was P27.2 billion.

"The national government is confident that it will achieve the full-year deficit target given the improving trend in revenue collection," Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said in yesterday's press briefing.

"We have seen increasing revenue collections since the third quarter of 2002. This is a result of the unrelenting efforts of the Bureau of Customs and the Bureau of Internal Revenue to improve collection performance," Camacho said.

Camacho said revenue collections increased by 9.2 percent to P136.6 billion while expenditures grew by only 4.9 percent to P195.4 billion from a year ago.

Total revenue for the quarter surpassed the P131.9-billion target by 3.5 percent.

The BOC exceeded its own goal by 18.6 percent, contributing P26.7 billion or 19.6 percent of the total government revenue for the first three months of the year.

The BIR registered a 3.8-percent growth in collections to P89.9 billion but was still 5 percent off its first quarter target of P94.6 billion.

For its part, the BTr collected P13.5 billion or 70.1 percent better than its target.

He said these agencies had thoroughly reviewed their respective systems, identified the loopholes and devised innovative administrative reforms that led to revenue growth.

"But we are not stopping here. We will continue to pursue other reform measures not only to ensure that we will meet this year's fiscal targets but also to further build the foundation for our long-term fiscal goals," Camacho explained.

For the month of March alone, the government's revenue collections increased by 13.2 percent to P45.2 billion vis-a-vis P72.4 billion worth of expenditures, resulting in a P27.2-billion deficit.

Actual spending for the first three months reached P195.4 billion or 3.5 percent higher than the target, but the Department of Budget and Management said this was due to the front-loading of some of the expenditures originally intended for the second quarter.

The higher first quarter deficit did not come as a surprise as the government had warned its preliminary tax taking were below target for the period. The government said there was extra spending for advances made in preparation for the 2004 general election amounting to P1.8 billion, which was released to the Commission on Elections last March, and another P4 billion for government employees' clothing allowances.

For the first quarter, the government's net financing declined by 51 percent to P48.7 billion as the government rejected high bids for treasury bills and bonds as well as for the redemption of local treasury bonds.

The government also issued a total of $800 million worth of global bonds and eurobonds in January and February this year for its external financing requirements.

EEI eyes big chunk of $680-M Bechtel contract in Iraq

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

PHILIPPINE engineering and construction company EEI Corp. is bidding to take a big slice of Bechtel Corp.'s $680-million contract to rebuild Iraq's utility services and repair its airports and seaport.

Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II yesterday revealed that EEI Corp. chair Rizalino Navarro recently left for San Francisco to meet with Bechtel officials for subcontracting deals in postwar Iraq.

Roxas, a member of the Presidential task force on Iraq, said that EEI had dealings with Bechtel which has tapped the Yuchengco-controlled company to supply skilled manpower for a number of its projects worldwide. EEI is Bechtel's local agent. One of Bechtel's subcontracting arrangements with EEI was the construction of a power plant in the Middle East.

The United States Agency for International Development announced last week that it had awarded the contract for Iraq's emergency infrastructure repair and rehabilitation to Bechtel.

The contract is initially worth $34.6 million but this is expected to balloon to $680 million

EEI/B5

Philippines

A PHILIPPINE Airlines plane is being loaded with cargo at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport. Airline officials earlier announced that PAL's net profit in fiscal year ending March 31 had amounted to only about P500 million, way off its target of P1 billion. The lower-than-expected profit was blamed on the war in Iraq and the SARS crisis. AFP

INDICATORS

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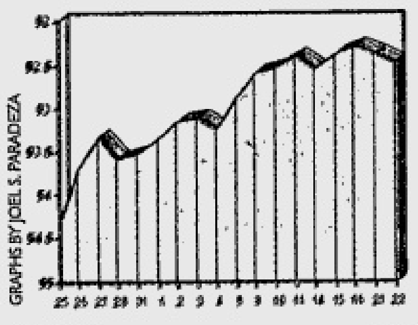

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United States	Dollar	0.920048	1.000000	52.287000
Japan	Yen	0.007635	0.008299	0.433900
United Kingdom	Pound	1.437943	1.562900	81.719400
Hongkong	Dollar	0.117962	0.128213	6.703900
Switzerland	Franc	0.662763	0.720357	37.665300
Canada	Dollar	0.632770	0.687758	35.960800
Singapore	Dollar	0.519361	0.564493	29.515600
Australia	Dollar	0.564724	0.613798	32.093700
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.440639	2.652731	138.703300
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.245353	0.266674	13.943600
Brunei	Dollar	0.517900	0.562905	29.432600
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000106	0.000115	0.006000
Thailand	Baht	0.021562	0.023436	1.225400
UAE	Dirham	0.250510	0.272279	14.236700
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.086900	56.830700
Argentina	Peso	0.318907	0.346620	18.123700
Brazil	Real	0.303646	0.330033	17.256400
Denmark	Kroner	0.134707	0.146413	7.655500
India	Rupee	0.019460	0.021151	1.105900
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.242150	0.263193	13.761600
Mexico	New Peso	0.087399	0.094994	4.967000
New Zealand	Dollar	0.510627	0.555001	29.019300
Norway	Kroner	0.127760	0.138862	7.260700
Pakistan	Rupee	0.015918	0.017301	0.904600
South Africa	Rand	0.120425	0.130890	6.843800
Korea	Won	0.000763	0.000829	0.043300
Sweden	Kroner	0.109409	0.118917	6.217800
Syria	Pound	0.021906	0.023810	1.245000
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.026507	0.028810	1.506400
Venezuela.	Bolivar	0.000577	0.000627	0.032800

STOCK MARKET

Stocks end lower on technical correction

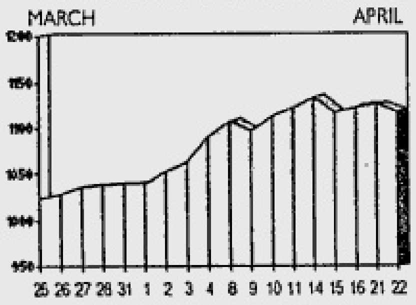
PROFIT-TAKING pushed local shares to a moderately lower close in light trade yesterday as investors secured gains after the market climbed more than 7 percent in the past three weeks.

Traders said the players expected first quarter corporate earnings to be weak due to the impact of the Iraq war and a depreciated peso. But prospects were brighter in the second half with fewer external risks, they added.

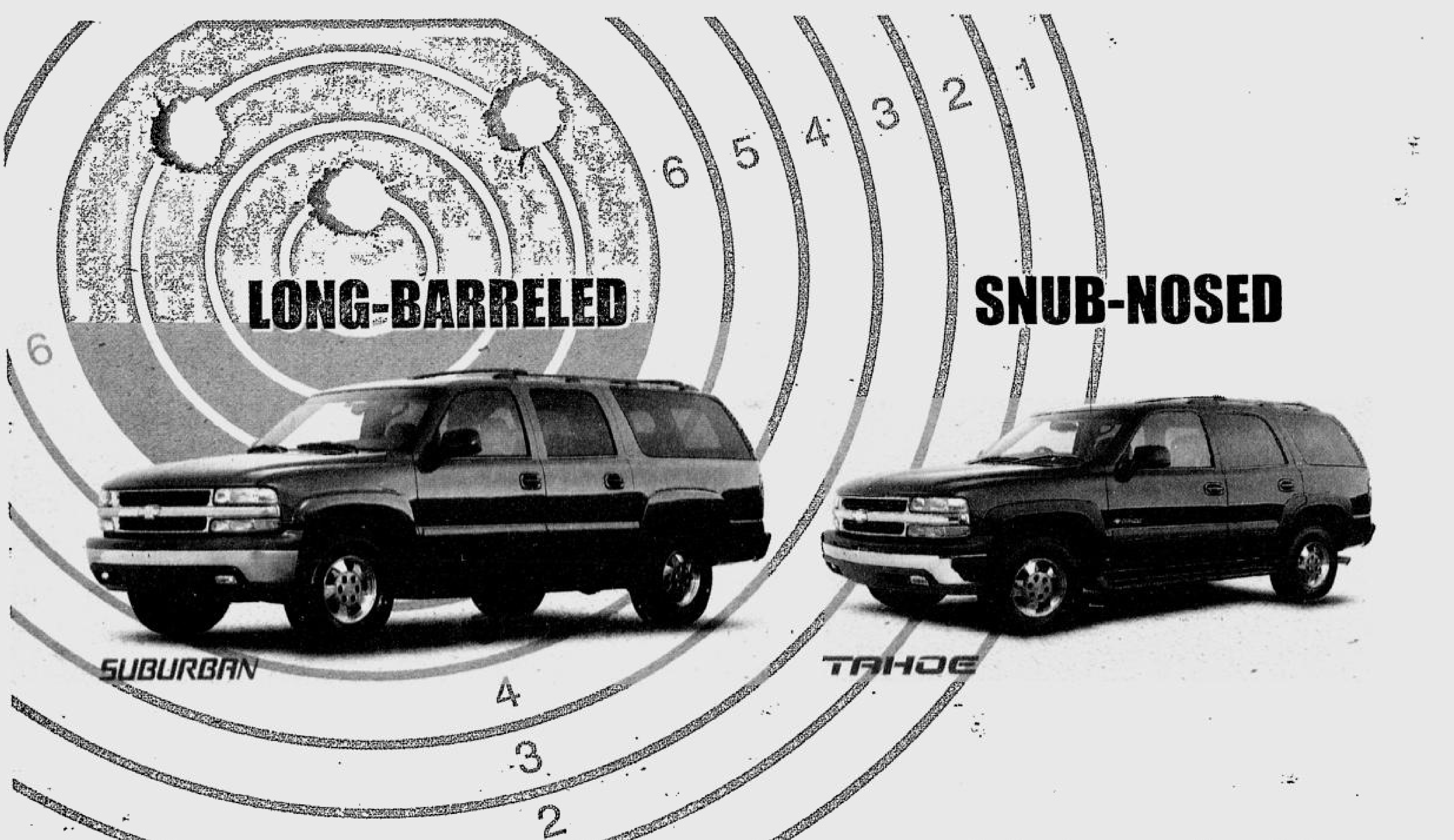
The main stock index lost 8.10 points or 0.72 percent to 1,117.12 points. But the broader All Shares Index rose 2.03 points or 0.3 percent to 682.73 points.

The market is up 7.6 percent since the start of April and 9.69 percent so far this year. *Reuters*

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B5)



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Further reductions in oil prices seen

By Ronnel W. Domingo

PUMP prices of petroleum products are expected to go down further this month following the continued drop in the prices of crude oil in the world market, Energy Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. said yesterday.

"Additional price cuts after last Thursday's reduction could be justified (considering the softening of international prices)," Perez said in an interview.

The DOE's monitoring showed that Dubai crude prices dropped by $8.82 from about $31.18 per barrel in Feb. 25 (before the war broke out) to $22.36 on April 7—a five-month low for the benchmark price due to the quick resolution of the conflict in Iraq.

Perez expressed hope that the softening in the world market prices of crude oil would soon be reflected in local pump prices.

On April 17, Pilipinas Shell Petroleum, TotalFinaElf Philippines, Petron, Caltex Philippines, Seaoil Philippines and Flying V announced a 30-centavo per liter price cut for gasoline and 20 centavos per liter for diesel.

Roberto Kanapi, Pilipinas Shell general manager for external affairs, said the reduction was in anticipation of crude price changes in May.

"(Considering) that international prices for both crude oil and finished petroleum products have softened recently, we aim to be price competitive by reflecting this in local pump prices this early," he said.

Virginia Ruivivar, Petron public affairs manager, said the move was just the first of a series of possible price cuts assuming that crude prices in the world market would continue to go down.

Dubai crude prices averaged at $27.38 per barrel in March, down by $2.64 from $30.02 per barrel in February.

The Organization of Petroleum Countries, however, which pumps about one third of the world's oil is considering a production cut on grounds that there is too much oil in the market.

Opec opened its taps ahead of the war in Iraq to allay concerns of a price spike once the shooting began.

Opec members agreed in January to a production target of 24.5 million barrels a day, but estimates show that actual production was actually closer to 26.2 million barrels a day.

But with the Iraq conflict quickly resolved, the Opec fears the world is now awash with crude which could lead to a crash in prices.

The Opec has called an emergency meeting for Thursday in Austria to assess postwar conditions in the oil market, with a view to slashing output to bolster sagging prices. *With a report from AP*

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Local IT firm focuses on Japan market

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

ADVANCED Technology and Systems Inc. (ADTX), a Philippine subsidiary of IBM Japan, and the Alcantara group are gearing up to further expand their foothold in Japan's outsourcing business.

ADTX vice president Ramil Villanueva said the partners were expecting a rise in demand for outsourcing deals as more Japanese companies, driven by rising costs at home, seek to tap overseas companies for part of their computer operations.

ADTX—a pioneer research and development company for firmware and device driver, storage solution, mobile device, retail solution, application software and quality assurance service—is projecting a 21-percent growth in sales to Japan this year to P170 million but Villanueva said the company had barely scratched the surface of Japan's outsourcing market.

Villanueva said the potential for outsourcing in Japan was huge but there were only a handful of Philippine companies looking at Japan as a potential market.

He said most information technology (IT) companies in the Philippines had their eyes on the US because Japan was a difficult market to penetrate due to the culture and language barrier and its cloistered business structure.

Villanueva said the Philippines had to produce more IT professionals geared for the Japanese market in order to compete with India and China that were cornering most of the outsourcing contracts from Japan.

ADTX has decided to establish its own training program in a tie-up with NIIT Philippines that would produce at least 40 graduates a year.

ADTX plans to draft the most promising IT graduates nationwide as scholars in a 5-month intensive training program to make IT engineers that are knowledgeable in general IT concepts based on Jitse (Japanese IT Standard Examination), up to date in emerging and new technologies such as Linux and Java, and proficient in business skills and the Japanese language, Nihongo.

Villanueva said the graduates would be deployed in ADTX's operations and its partnership with Alsons Corp., Alsons/ADTX Information Systems Inc. (AAISI), that provide services in application development, web solutions, and system integration.

ADTX, which was formed in 1993, was able to establish a toehold in Japan largely because of its owners' linkages in Japan, its thrust to meet the computer needs of Japanese businessmen operating in the Philippines (especially those in the economic zones), and its strategy to cater to all clients (a major Japanese company has a bigger outsourcing operation in the Philippines but all its businesses are in-house).

GMA extends term of CDC management

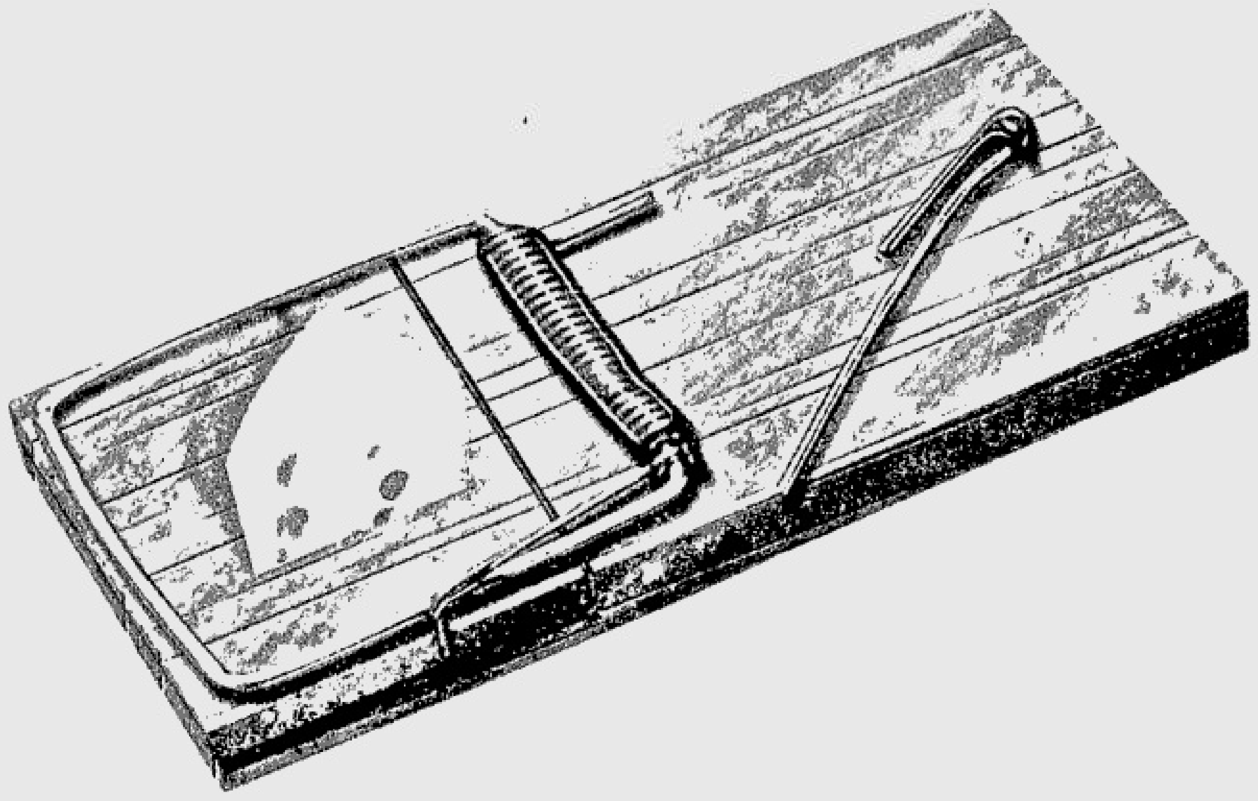
CLARK FIELD, Pampanga—President Macapagal-Arroyo has extended for another year the term of Emmanuel Y. Angeles as president and chief executive officer of Clark Development Corp. (CDC) and his entire management team.

The President, likewise, re-appointed the members of the CDC board led by its chair Rizalino S. Navarro. The other board members are Victor Jose Luciano, Rufo Colayco, Benigno Ricafort, Eloisa Narciso, Victor Yap, Maximo Sangil, Armando Madamba, Jesus Nicdao and Wilhelmina Paras.

The CDC officials' term expired on March 31.

Under Angeles' administration, CDC posted P7.06 billion worth of investments from 161 contracts signed in 2001 and 2002. The P7.06-billion worth of investments represent 13.76 percent of the P51.30 billion in investment commitments secured by CDC since its inception in 1993. To date, the amount is the third biggest investment secured by a CDC president despite the economic crunch.

Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk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Lights out in Calatagan

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

FORMER Batangas Gov. J. Antonio Leviste may have to serenade billionaire Chito Madrigal-Collantes with the World War II-era song "Don't Fence Me In" if he wants to continue with his Calatagan lighthouse project.

Doña Chito, according to the grapevine, has barred unauthorized passage leading to the Calatagan lighthouse being leased and transformed by a Leviste foundation into a hotel-restaurant combine.

The extended Madrigal family, including Doña Chito, maintains weekend residences along the idyllic Batangas shoreline, with the single road leading through with the Spanish-era lighthouse passing through the sprawling Madrigal property.

The Madrigals, according to a family friend, are concerned that the commercialization of the lighthouse would bring too much traffic and unwanted rubberneckers into the otherwise secluded community whose unmarked weekend houses include those of former Ambassador Raul Goco, port services king Enrique Razon Jr., presidential *balae* Herman Montenegro, real estate developer Elena Tanyu-Coyiuto and a couple of rumored drug lords-smugglers.

According to the grapevine, a Madrigal scion, Bo Warnes, who has quietly transformed that section of the Calatagan bay into a fish sanctuary—guarded 24/7 by a Coast Guard detachment whose living expenses and quarters are provided for by Warnes—is especially aghast at how Leviste grafted a rectangular cement promenade on to the lighthouse cliff.

Work on the Calatagan lighthouse has been suspended for some time now, apparently because of the right-of-way problem, especially after the Madrigal matriarch got miffed with the construction crew passing through her property without so much as a by-your-leave.

The Calatagan parola restaurant-hotel complex is part of a Leviste program to rehabilitate historic lighthouses and transform them into tourist destinations. Leviste, a governor of the Board of Investments and chair of the Philippine Leisure and Retirement Authority, heads a private foundation that was able to sign an agreement with the Coast Guard to lease a number of the now abandoned lighthouses.

DJ does Dasma

SOCIALITE Diana Jean "DJ" Lopez's ejectment from her longtime Dasmariñas Village residence is up for hearing tomorrow by no less than the Supreme Court.

According to the grapevine, oral arguments will be heard by the high court now holding its summer session in Baguio City.

Lopez, who still retains her legendary beauty despite the years, had been staying for decades in the Paraiso Street house, allegedly a "gift" from a longtime friend, until her unceremonious decampment late last year after the house was sold by her friend's family without informing Lopez beforehand.

Hurt by the alleged betrayal, Lopez, who has since relocated to the Urdaneta Apartments, subsequently filed the suit.

Resort, yes; public, no

THE 10-ROOM house-resort-spa of restaurateur VicVic Villavicencio in Sta. Ana, Cagayan, is world-class by most accounts but it is still closed to the public, except to Triple V's family and very

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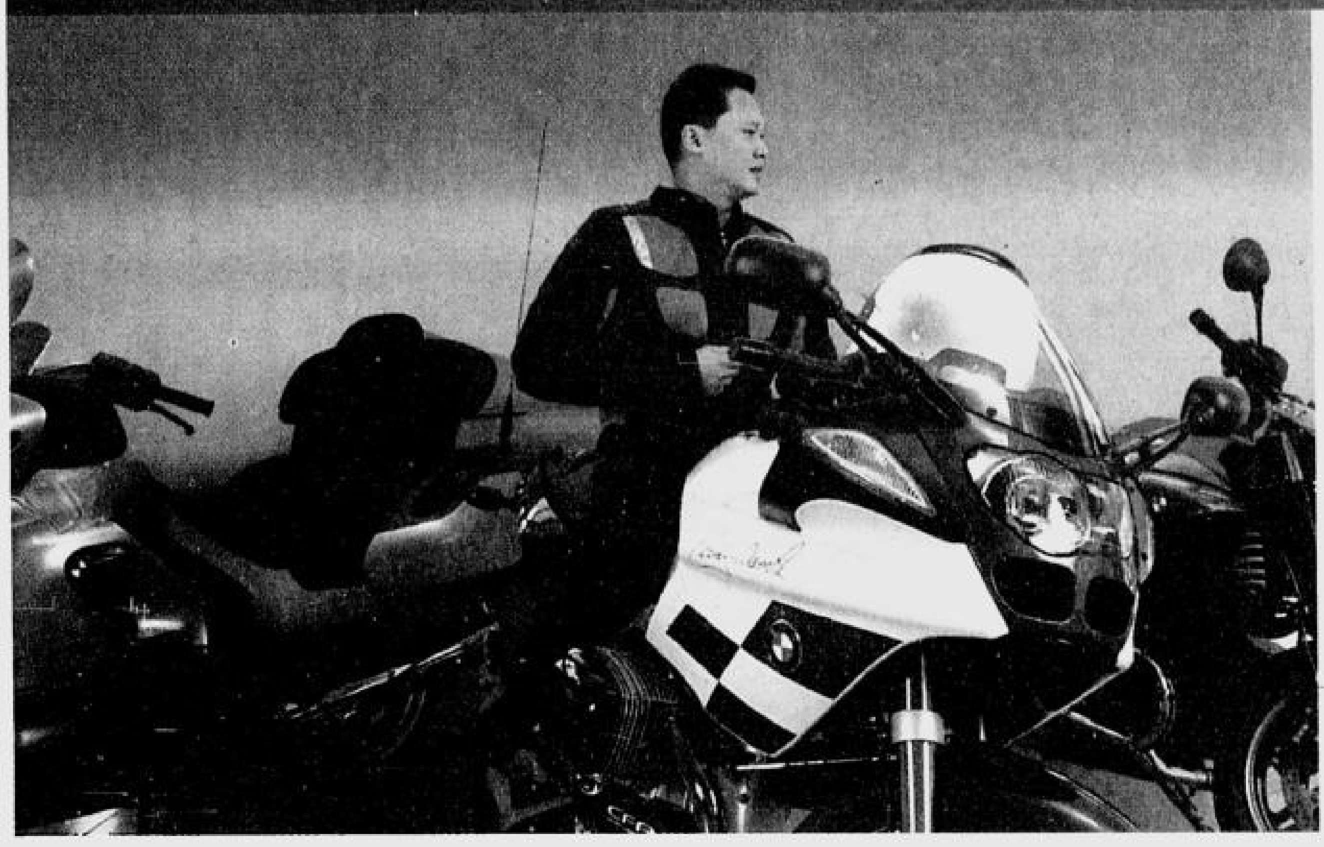

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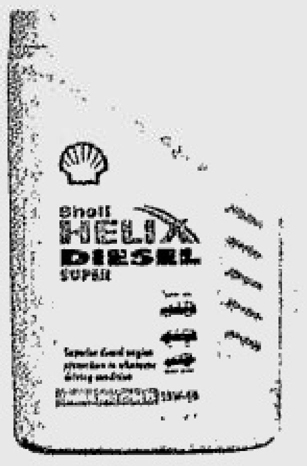

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PLDT cuts by half leased line rates for ISPs

By Abigail L. Ho

DOMINANT carrier Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. has reduced by half its leased line rates for independent Internet service providers in view of the strong competition posed by other local telecommunication companies.

An industry source yesterday said that from almost P90,000 to P100,000 per month for an E1/R2 circuit, PLDT had reduced its rate for ISPs to only about P50,000 per month for the same service.

An E1/R2 is a circuit that can handle 30 simultaneous calls at any given time.

"PLDT already lowered the cost of its E1/R2s, although the competition offers the same service at lower rates," the source said.

Local ISP group Philippine Internet Services Organization (Piso) in October last year accused PLDT of discriminatory pricing of lines. It claimed that PLDT had been charging independent ISPs rates higher than the level charged on regular corporate customers.

Although Piso's complaint was filed with the National

Telecommunications Commission, the House of Representatives also held hearings on it after Quirino Rep. Junie Cua gave a privilege speech in October accusing PLDT of trying to create a monopoly in cyberspace.

He said PLDT was working toward this through discriminatory and predatory pricing schemes that could eventually drive its competitors in the ISP arena out of business.

During hearings at the House, the source said several congressmen pressured PLDT to bring down its rates for ISPs and even to open its digital subscriber line (DSL) Internet infrastructure to independent ISPs.

Another point in Piso's complaint was PLDT's refusal to open its "always on," high-speed Internet infrastructure to other players. Because of this, ISPs could only offer conventional dial-up Internet service, or access that users would have to sign on for every time they used it.

"PLDT's lawyers said opening up its DSL infrastructure would entail a certain investment on the part of PLDT. This is what we'll be settling in a meeting tomorrow (Wednesday)," the source said.

PLDT executives will be meeting with Piso officials today.

In a related development, Mosaic Communications Inc. president William Torres said, despite tough competition from telecommunications firms, independent ISPs would be here to stay as they could offer more value-added services than their telco-owned counterparts.

He explained that Internet value-added services were not part of a telecom firm's main business so it would be harder for them than for independent ISPs to concentrate on value-added services. "Independent ISPs will survive because they're needed by society. Society needs more than just access. They also need content. Telcos can go into those things but that's not their main business so it will be harder for them," he said.

Trade data revisions show deficits in 2 yrs

THE GOVERNMENT revised yesterday its trade figures for the last three years following statistical discrepancies, saying the country suffered trade deficits instead of surpluses in 2001 and 2002.

In a statement, the National Statistics Office acknowledged it had largely underestimated the volume of raw material imports for the key electronics sector for the past three years.

It then revised upwards the country's 2002 imports by 5.5 percent to $35.427 billion and exports upward by 0.38 percent to $35.201 billion from figures issued earlier.

"The resulting trade balance in goods amounted to a deficit of $219 million, a decline from the old series of $1.63-billion surplus," the statement said.

It said the country also suffered a trade deficit in 2001 of $907 million, instead of a $2.59-billion surplus, while the trade surplus for 2000 was reduced to $3.587 billion from $6.691 billion.

The Philippine trade figures became an issue last year when the Wall Street Journal challenged the data on imported raw materials for the key electronics sector.

The sector accounts for 69 percent of merchandise exports of the Philippines.

The NSO said the adjustments on the import data were largely based on information from a survey of imported raw materials it jointly carried out with the central bank. *AFP*

Improving business in Eaga through CIQS harmonization

MINDANAO ONE

Joji Ilagan-Bian

IT was during the 5th Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) of the BIMP-Eaga in 1996 when the idea of harmonizing CIQS Rules, Regulations and Procedures (RRPs) among its member-countries was first introduced.

Before I get ahead of myself, allow me to explain this peculiar acronym. It stands for customs, immigration, quarantine and security, hence, CIQS. These are the areas of regulation with the greatest bearing on the mobility of people and goods among the Eaga countries.

The presumption is that current regulations governing trade and travel within the Eaga are arbitrary and discordant, thereby, making it hard for businessmen to operate smoothly and cost-effectively; and for tourists to easily hie off to the Eaga country of their choice.

If we were to envision a more conducive environment for trade and business cooperation in the BIMP-Eaga, the harmonization of CIQS needs to take place. It means that there should be uniformity in rules, fees and requirements.

Prior to the envisioned Eaga-wide rationalization, it is important to streamline the regulations at the country level. This means cutting red tape, ensuring transparency in rules, reducing the number of documentary requirements, making fees more affordable and standardized, decentralizing approval authority and a host of other reforms.

As an illustration, if I were to export mangoes to say, Malaysia, I would need accreditation documents (city business permit, DTI registration, etc.); an authority to load; export declaration; commodity clearance certificate; certificate of origin, certificate of shipment (which requires that I submit a commercial invoice, bill of lading, and copy of the processed export declaration); and a phytosanitary certificate (which needs an application for inspection and, again, the export declaration) and permit to import (issued by the importing country). I would also need to pay for the issuance of the certificate of origin, phytosanitary certification, community pot, and documentary stamps.

Whew! All that, and I haven't even mentioned freight cost yet! How about how long it takes to accomplish all those requirements?

Going back to much-needed developments in the CIQS effort, as the story goes, after that historic SOM in 1996, the Asian financial crisis followed, effectively putting the BIMP-Eaga (and of course, the CIQS initiative) on hold.

In 2000, the Mindanao Economic Development Council (MEDCo)—the government agency mandated to act as coordinating body for the BIMP-Eaga in the Philippines—resumed working toward CIQS harmonization. A Mindanao-Palawan consultation was conducted, in order to gather current concerns and issues.

Later, as a first step toward the streamlining process, the MEDCo published the first Philippine CIQS primer. The primer was seen as a good thing by the private sector in the Philippine-Eaga, as well as other member-countries, as it provided them with a single source for all the rules, documentary requirements, and fees necessary to do business in our country. You can also access the primer in the Web (http://www.medco.gov.ph). This document enabled the different government agencies concerned to see areas where they could possibly merge procedures and avoid duplication.

Davao City was again instrumental in the CIQS initiative when in 2001, it hosted the first BIMP-Eaga CIQS conference. This enabled representatives from the concerned government agencies all over the Eaga to discuss CIQS issues and concerns between and among the member countries, and identify priority CIQS RRPs for reforms.

I am sure that Filipino enterprises doing business in the Eaga have benefited from what has been achieved so far. Unfortunately, the harmonization effort has not been moving as rapidly as we hoped.

Overall, as far as the Philippine government is concerned, it is still at the streamlining stage. Since regulatory reforms are mainly legislated or are decided upon at the national level, the streamlining process is slow. Also, our Eaga counterparts have yet to come up with the same measures our country has come up with.

Since it is the private sector that will eventually benefit from this undertaking, we have decided to do our part. Last March 11, the East Asean Business Council, which is the private sector representative of the BIMP-Eaga, met to discuss its forthcoming plans, particularly those that deal with BIMP-Eaga CIQS harmonization.

The EABC members aim to see how far their respective governments have gone, make recommendations, and activate mechanisms to institute the needed changes. One way by which the EABC may accomplish this is through the creation of as many cross-border task forces as possible, rationalizing RRPs at the local level. Policy recommendations and advocacy will also be done. Another feasible project is to facilitate the creation of one-stop processing centers so that exporters need not go to different offices to fulfill shipping requirements.

I am sure that our friends in the government will welcome our involvement, no matter that the CIQS falls within the realm of public policy. The ultimate goal, after all, is fostering greater trade, tourism, and investments in the BIMP-Eaga. Simply put: business.

(Ms Bian is the chair of the Mindanao Business Council and the vice chair of the East Asean Business Council)

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BSP sees 'much better' balance of payment position in April

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas said yesterday it was expecting a "much better" balance of payment position in April following a $557-million deficit in March.

In a news briefing, acting BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. also announced that the central bank might revise its full-year BOP surplus target of $100 million to $200 million to account for recent revisions in the government's import data.

"We will review that (BOP target) together with the revised import number for 2002," Tetangco said.

On Tuesday, the government revised its trade figures for the last three years following statistical discrepancies, saying the country suffered trade deficits instead of surpluses in 2002 and 2001.

The National Statistics Office acknowledged it largely underestimated the volume of raw material imports for the key electronics sector for the past three years.

It then revised upward the country's 2002 imports by 5.5 percent to $35.427 billion and exports upward by 0.38 percent to $35.201 billion from figures issued earlier.

Tetangco said these revisions would not affect the $660-million BOP surplus recorded for 2002.

"That will remain the same. What will be revised will be the breakdown of the BOP," Tetangco said. "The bottom line will remain the same because that is based on the change in international reserves where there is no change." Asked whether the Philippines might end up with a deficit, Tetangco replied, "There's some offsetting with the short-term capital accounts."

Restraining order vs VAT on banks sought

By Elena R. Torrijos

A THRIFT bank has asked the court to stop the Department of Finance and the Bureau of Internal Revenue from implementing the value-added tax on financial institutions.

Real Bank Inc. said in a petition filed with the Quezon City Regional Trial Court that the VAT on financial institutions was unconstitutional because "it violates due process, it does not comply with the constitutional requirements of equitableness and progressiveness and does not adhere with the goal of the national economy."

The bank has asked the court to issue an order to prevent the Department of Finance and Bureau of Internal Revenue from implementing the VAT.

Executive Judge Catral Mendoza of QC RTC Branch 219 instead summoned Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho and BIR Commissioner Guillermo Parayno to appear before the court as the case will be raffled tomorrow at 2 p.m.

"Hopefully we will have the TRO by Friday," Real Bank president Reynaldo Sarmiento said in an interview yesterday.

Sarmiento said that it was urgent that the TRO be issued as the BIR has required financial institutions to submit the VAT returns on April 25.

Commercial banks, thrift banks and rural banks have opposed the implementation of the VAT on financial institutions on grounds that it would lead to a 10-percent increase in the interest payments of borrowers, a decline in lending and increase in loan defaults.

The banks have instead asked for the permanent implementation of the gross receipts tax.

Cocktales

From page B3

close friends.

This we got from Villavicencio himself, who added that what actually was open to paying guests was the clubhouse of the Philippine Game Fishing Federation, which like the Villavicencio "resort," is also located within the Philippine Navy compound in that northernmost tip of Luzon.

The Navy compound itself was originally an Anscor property until its donation to the government years ago.

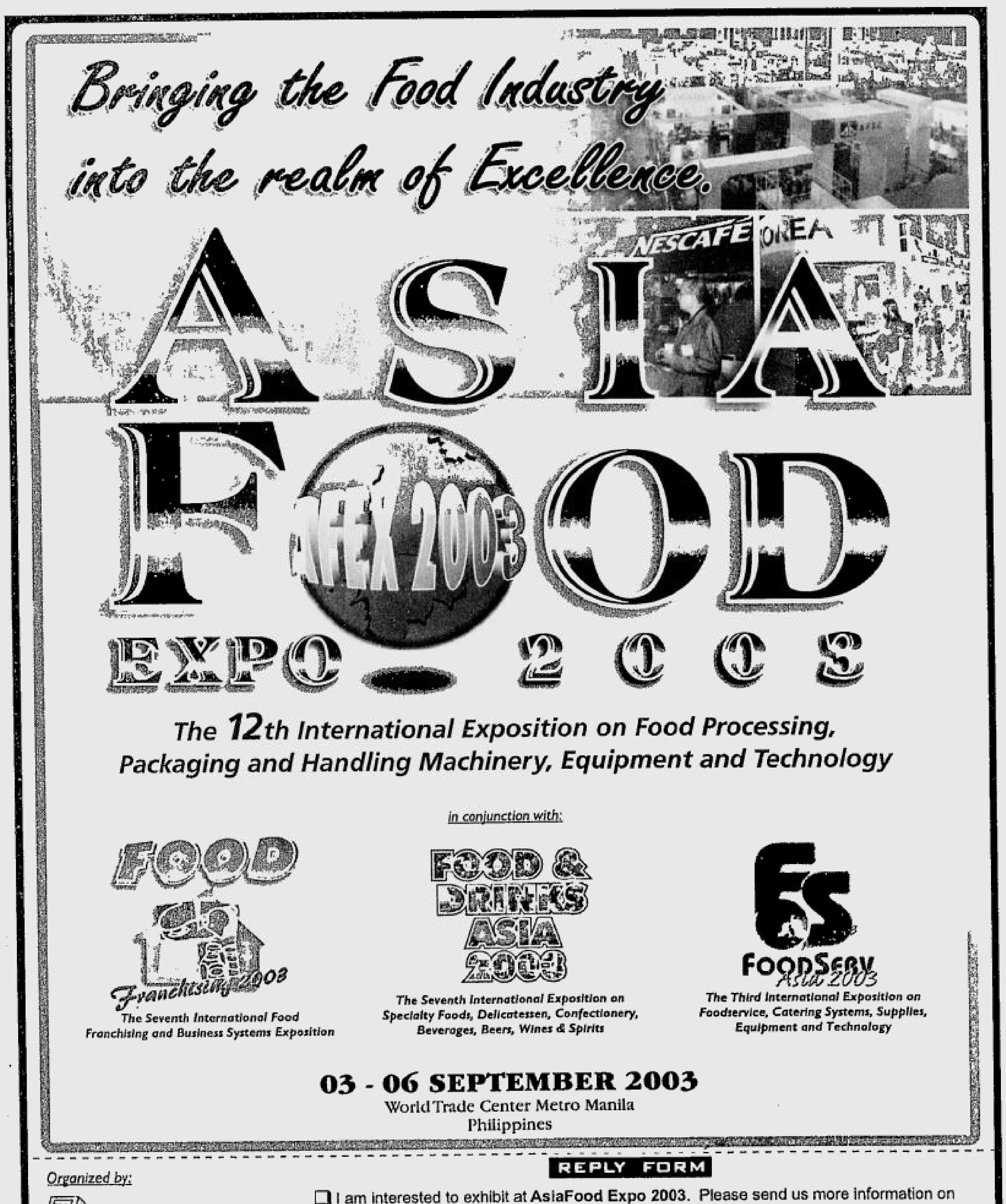
After completely refurbishing all his Triple V outlets, Villavicencio is now building a six-restaurant complex within The Fort, in what is now the fast-rising Megaworld/Forbeswood complex. The restaurant complex should be ready by December. Villavicencio said he is now able to branch out precisely after having completely paid off, through a *dacion en pago* arrangement, all his creditor banks with shares of Subic Bay Yacht Club, which he developed and where he is still the commodore.

Heard through the grapevine

THE PUBLICLY listed Cyber Bay Corp. has undertaken a negative publicity campaign against the Supreme Court over its decision to nullify the controversial PEA-Amari deal—the Ramos-era deal was even denounced by then Sen. Ernesto Maceda—using a PR consultant of San Miguel Corp.

San Miguel vice chair Ramon Ang happens to also sit as director of Cyber Bay.

(Cocktales may be reached at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)



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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Tuesday, April 22, 2003)

Stocks	Open	High	Low	Close	Volume
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	16	16	16	16	11,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	36.5	37	36.5	37	744,100
China Banking Corp.	650	665	650	665	1,280
Citystate Savings Bank	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc	27.5	27.5	27	27	38,800
First E-Bank Corp.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	40,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	29	29	29	29	60,100
Philippine National Bank	25.5	26	25.5	26	15,700
Security Bank Corp.	11.25	11.25	11	11	15,400
Union Bank of the Phil.	17	17	17	17	2,000
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	1.46	1.46	1.44	1.44	265,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1335	1340	1335	1340	670
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1	1	0.9	0.9	120,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1020	1030	1020	1030	1,630
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp	15	15	14.75	14.75	18,400
Diversified Fin. Network	4	4	4	4	10,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc	0.82	0.82	0.73	0.74	30,950,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	620	620	595	600	11,580
Island Info And Tech Inc.	0.032	0.032	0.032	0.032	2,000,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.019	0.02	0.019	0.02	3,100,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.39	0.4	0.36	0.36	3,200,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	395	397.5	392.5	395	119,340
Ivantage Corp.	0.45	0.46	0.43	0.44	1,290,000
Philweb Corp.	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	20,600,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	7.6	7.7	7.6	7.7	64,000
Manila Electric Co. B	11.25	11.25	11	11.25	438,400
Petron Corp.	2.12	2.12	2.02	2.04	5,533,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.56	1.56	1.56	1.56	20,000
Trans-Asia Oil And Energy	0.95	1	0.94	1	300,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.48	1.5	1.48	1.5	535,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.75	2.75	2.65	2.65	1,004,000
Keppel Phils. Marine, Inc	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	20,000
Negros Navigation Co.Inc.	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51	10,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.6	0.61	0.55	0.57	6,290,000
Sanitary Wares Mfg. Corp.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	100,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	70,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.4	2.5	2.4	2.5	10,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	16.5	16.5	16.25	16.5	412,900
La Tondeña Distillers,Inc	33	33	33	33	100
RFM Corp.	0.76	0.77	0.76	0.76	560,000
San Miguel Corp. A	57.5	57.5	57.5	57.5	77,800
San Miguel Corp. B	67	67	67	67	75,000
Universal Robina Corp	3.45	3.45	3.45	3.45	6,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	110,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	4.4	4.45	4.35	4.35	2,571,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.42	2.42	2.42	2.42	78,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.028	0.031	0.028	0.03	42,900,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	1,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.3	20,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	100,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.25	0.26	0.245	0.26	6,280,000
A Brown Company Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	200,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.17	0.17	800,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.28	0.29	0.26	0.26	10,260,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp	8.4	8.4	8.3	8.3	121,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.08	0.12	0.08	0.115	2,500,000
Ionics Inc.	0.78	0.78	0.75	0.75	160,000
J.G. Summit Holdings, Inc	1.62	1.62	1.62	1.62	300,000
Macroasia Corp.	0.6	0.67	0.6	0.67	490,000
Marsteel-Cons. Inc. B	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	1,000,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.64	0.64	0.62	0.62	1,130,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.22	0.22	0.2	0.205	3,820,000
Music Corp.	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	1,040,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp	0.035	0.035	0.035	0.035	1,300,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.77	0.77	0.77	0.77	30,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co	0.04	0.042	0.04	0.042	700,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.38	0.39	0.38	0.38	1,220,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	1.42	1.42	1.34	1.4	330,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	700,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	16.75	16.75	16.75	16.75	6,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	200,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.45	0.47	0.43	0.45	11,160,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.37	0.4	0.37	0.39	750,000
Mondragon Intl Phils, Inc	0.14	0.16	0.14	0.16	110,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp (Pdr)	14.75	14.75	14.75	14.75	24,000
OTHERS					
Far Eastern University	480	480	480	480	20
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.5	5.5	5.2	5.3	357,000
C & P Homes Inc	0.195	0.2	0.185	0.185	450,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.215	0.215	0.2	0.21	2,290,000
EIB Realty Developers Inc	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	100,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.2	0.21	0.195	0.195	10,690,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	20,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	0.99	0.99	0.97	0.98	5,160,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.0525	0.0525	0.0525	0.0525	500,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc	0.175	0.19	0.175	0.18	2,270,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	40,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	30,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	1,182,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	2,000,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	500,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	410,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	3,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	2,000,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.045	200,000
OIL					
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.185	0.2	0.185	0.2	80,000
Pacifica	0.0095	0.0095	0.0095	0.0095	5,000,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.036	0.036	0.035	0.035	500,000

INTEREST RATES

April 22, 2003—MART 1 Rates

Benchmark Interest Rates	MART1 April 22, 2003 (%)	MART1 April 21, 2003 (%)
1 Month	8.1923	8.1833
3 Months	8.4568	8.4568
6 Months	8.9229	8.8135
1 Year	9.6519	9.6346
2 Years	10.7462	10.7788
3 Years	11.7212	11.7577
4 Years	12.7019	12.6885
5 Years	12.9327	13.1135
7 Years	13.3577	13.7577
10 Years	13.6019	13.5539
20 Years	13.9404	13.95
25 Years	14.4	14.3904

SOURCE: MART/BLOOMBERG

Victorias Milling reports 11% hike in first-half net

VICTORIAS Milling Co. yesterday reported that its earnings before interest tax depreciation and amortization rose 11 percent to P50 million in the first half of its crop year covering September last year to February this year.

Victorias president Arthur Aguilar reported that during the period under review, raw sugar production rose 7 percent to 3.5 million bags, while refined sugar production soared 26 percent to 3.5 million bags.

Victorias accounts for approximately 13 percent of raw sugar and 31 percent of refined sugar production in the Philippines.

Victorias also recently got a boost with a P300-million loan from tobacco magnate Lucio Tan's Tanduay Holdings Inc. at a very low interest rate.

The loan is convertible into a 16-percent equity into the company by the third year and represents compliance with the sugar mill's second rehabilitation plan.

EEI eyes big chunk . . .

From page B1

over 18 months subject to funding allocation from the US Congress. Bechtel said it would subcontract work in all areas of the capital construction contract.

Roxas expressed confidence that the Philippines would get a sizable amount of the multi-billion dollars worth of projects that would be contracted and subcontracted in Iraq's post-war rehabilitation because of the Filipino workers' long experience in the Middle East as well as its connections with the US government for Malacañang's support of the Iraq policy of President Bush.

Roxas noted that Iraq was among the first countries in the Middle East where Filipino workers were deployed for the construction of oil and petrochemical infrastructure. He said that Landoil Corp. of House Speaker Jose de Venecia still has an outstanding claim over a construction project in Iraq in the 1980s.

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Figuring out the reasons behind the Filipino's demeanor in the market arena is essential. Learn it from a historian's point of view.

Dr. Landa F. Jocano
Executive Director, PUNLAD Research House, Inc.

Session 2 : Insight Marketing: Knowing What Your Customers Want
Being one step ahead of your consumers is a big factor in developing new concepts. Gain mastery in consumer psychology from the expert.

Ms. Judy Qua
Psychologist/ Mind Trainor, Silva Method

Session 3 : Relationship Marketing:
High-tech and High Touch Approaches in Building Customer Loyalty
Veer away from the traditional methods of keeping the loyalty of your clients. Learn new techniques as we touch on different approaches with one of the experts in the industry.

Mr. Dioscoro L. Garing
Founder and President, Salesmen's Center

Session 4 : Imaginative Marketing: Advertising that Delivers Results
Creativity begins with imagination. Discover new concepts and aim to become the leader in innovation and ingenuity.

Mr. Dave Guerrero
Chairman, BBDO Guerrero Ortega

Session 5 : Advocacy Marketing: Business-Government-Civil Society Partnership
The convergence of ideas from the business, government and civil society sectors is vital to nation-building. Listen to leading authorities in these matters as they speak on how this meeting of minds creates a big impact to our economy.

*Sec. Bayani Fernando**
Cabinet Secretary
Department of Public Works & Highways

*Sec. Luisito Lorenzo**
Cabinet Secretary, Department of Agriculture

Day 2

Session 1 : Channel Marketing: Discovering New Opportunities for Growth
Looking for fresh concepts and avenues for expansion and development? Get some tips on how to stumble on gold mines from an expert.

Mr. Tomas B. Lopez, Jr.
Professor, Asian Institute of Management (AIM)

Session 2 : Trade Marketing: Outsourcing New Business Opportunities
The search for new opportunities is a never-ending story. Listen as we traverse the journey of one of the leading names in the industry.

Mr. Jay Bernardo
President & CEO, JAD Group of Companies

Session 3 : Sizzling Marketing Promotions: Hot Button Strategies that Work
Find out how to creatively spread the word around about your products and services. Gather around two visionaries and learn from their experiences.

*Mr. Pedro N. Dy-Liaco**
SVP-Director for Communication
Nestlé Philippines, Inc.

Mr. Jan-Willem Adrian
Regional Marketing and Product Development Manager
Spring (Reshaping Global Mail)

Session 4 : Predictive Marketing: Data Mining to Optimize Results
Appreciate the importance of knowing more and discover the results of being one step ahead of your colleagues.

Mr. Jose Ramon G. Albert, Ph.D.
Statistician V & Chief, Research Division
Statistical Resources & Training Center (SRTC)

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Managing Emergent Products in an Emergent Marketplace
With the market scenario becoming unpredictable every minute, there is an urgent call for fresh strategies to cope with the times. Listen to the marketing genius on leading consumer products.

*Mr. Genaro V. Lopez**
President, Coca-Cola Bottlers (Phils.) Inc.

Session 6 : The Consummate Marketer: Moving Towards Excellence
Strive towards the call of being the ultimate marketer, perfecting the methods and strategies of marketing. Hear it from one of the respected marketing gurus of the country.

*Mr. Howard Belton**
President, Unilever

Session 7 : The Creative Marketer: Where Do You Go From Here?

Mr. Henry S. Tenedero
President, Center for Teaching & Learning Styles

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BSP to ease grip on local money supply

By Doris C. Dumlao

WITH the economic risks created by the US-led war in Iraq petering out, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said yesterday it was ready to loosen its grip on domestic money supply should demand for credit expand.

Acting BSP Governor Amando Tetangco told reporters yesterday the central bank was checking whether there was enough liquidity in the system to fuel growth.

"We think we have adequate liquidity right now, but we will continue to follow this and see if there is any up-tick in demand for credit," Tetangco said.

He said the central bank, even at the height of uncertainties in the Middle East, kept a neutral stance on its key overnight rates.

Instead of raising its rates, the BSP removed the tiering system on bank placements and increased the liquid reserve requirement by a percentage point to mop excess liquidity that was being used to speculate against the peso.

The overnight borrowing and lending rates were kept at 7 percent and 9.25 percent.

On the other hand, the BSP removed starting last March 20 the three-tiered system for banks' placements with it.

The overnight reverse repurchase transactions with the BSP are now being accepted at a flat rate of 7 percent in lieu of a tiering system, while term RRPs and special deposit accounts are being paid the published rates for corresponding maturities at a certain spread over the overnight RRP rate.

DISCLOSURES

FELIPE Yap, Bryan Yap, Eduardo Alvarez, Artemio Disini, Cielito Habito, Teresita Turla and Cresencio Yap have been elected directors of **Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co.** John Fairfield and Wilfrido Tecson were elected independent directors.

* * *

SPI Technologies Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on May 30, 2 p.m., at the McKinley Room of the Manila Polo Club. Record date is April 30.

* * *

THE ANNUAL stockholders' meeting of the **Philippine National Bank** is set on May 27, 8 a.m., at the Century Park Hotel in Manila. Record date is April 28.

* * *

CHINA Banking Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on May 15, 4 p.m., at the penthouse of the China Banking Corp. Building in Makati.

* * *

CROWN Equities Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on May 25, 4 p.m., at the Universal Leisure Club, Equitable Bank Tower, Makati.

* * *

BASIC Consolidated Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on May 30 at the Manila Elks Club, Makati.

* * *

THE ANNUAL stockholders' meeting of **Seafront Resources Corp.** has been set on May 27, 2 p.m., instead of May 21. It will be held at Tower 2 of RCBC Plaza, Makati.

* * *

CITYLAND Development Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 3. Record date is May 4.

* * *

JOLLIBEE Foods Corp. has sold 138,600 shares at P16.75 each. The shares were taken from the company's treasury shares. This brings the number of Jollibee treasury shares to 47,226,544.

* * *

PHILIPPINE Estates Corp. has said it will be unable to hold its annual stockholders' meeting as set in its by-laws. Its external auditors are still auditing its financial statements.

* * *

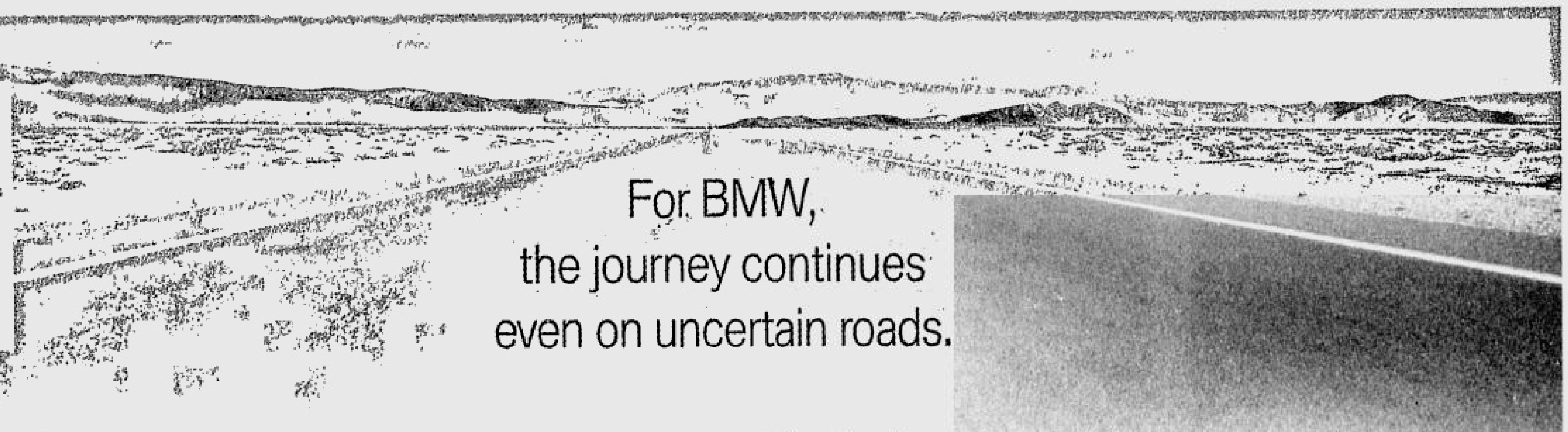
METRO Alliance Holdings & Equities Corp. has announced the resignation of Renato Peronilla as a director effective April 10.

* * *

THE ANNUAL stockholders' meeting of **A. Brown Co. Inc.** is set on June 27, 2 p.m., at the Xavier Sports and Country Club in Cagayan de Oro City.

* * *

ASIAN Terminals Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on May 27. ***Compiled by Armin Adina, PDI Research***



Prestige Cars
Makati

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Sheer Driving
Pleasure

For BMW,
the journey continues
even on uncertain roads.

When BMW Philippines started in Manila, it was met by an unstable economy. But BMW continued to operate, doubled its efforts and posted record sales in the 1st year! Today BMW celebrates its 2nd anniversary in the midst of a major international conflict and a worldwide health scare. But they're as determined as ever to keep on going whatever roads lie ahead. Congratulations to BMW Philippines on its 2nd anniversary! From Prestige Cars Makati. An authorised BMW dealer.

Trade dep't shuts doors on new private emission testing centers

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry has temporarily shut its doors on new private emission testing centers in Metro Manila to prevent cutthroat competition among existing franchise holders.

Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II also ordered the suspension of 17 emission testing centers caught without DTI accreditation and canceled the license of one center operating outside its designated franchise area.

Roxas said there were 58 emission testing centers accredited to operate in the National Capital Region, more than enough to accommodate all vehicles in the area.

"We would like to protect those who have already invested in this undertaking by preventing cutthroat competition due to the saturation of the market," Roxas said.

The moratorium and clampdown on emission testing centers are expected to mollify irate operators who have complained about the flurry of licenses coming out in the past few months that have saturated the market.

The cutthroat competition has put in peril millions worth of investments—each lane is worth P1.5 million—made by emission testing center operators lured into the business after the trade department promised to protect their interest by limiting the number of emission testing center operators to a single testing lane for every 15,000 registered vehicles.

BIR set to probe 11,000 firms violating labor laws

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue said yesterday it would look into the tax compliance of nearly 11,000 firms found violating the country's labor laws.

"(Senate Majority Leader Loren Legarda's) hint that these firms could also be violating not only labor but also tax laws was a good observation, and I don't see any reason why the BIR would not go after them if they have really committed tax violations," BIR Deputy Commissioner Licerio Evangelista said in an interview.

Legarda has asked the BIR to investigate whether the firms found violating the country's labor laws were also skirting their tax obligations.

The senator urged the Department of Labor and Employment to submit to the BIR a list of companies violating the country's labor laws so that the BIR could audit their tax declarations. *Michelle V. Remo*

PPA seen saving ₱24M by ending N. Harbor water distribution deal

By Abigail L. Ho

THE PHILIPPINE Ports Authority said yesterday it would save as much as P24 million by pre-terminating its North Harbor water distribution contract with Blue Crown Marine and Hydro Services Inc.

Blue Crown sued the PPA in July 1999 for failing to deliver 150,000 cubic meters of water a month as stated in its contract.

The delayed turnover of the water distribution system also cost Blue Crown around P10.1 million in pre-operating expenses.

"If we don't agree to pre-terminate the contract, the cost of damages would further bloat, and we may not be able to take advantage of the waivers on the up-front money as well as the interest earnings," PPA general manager Alfonso Cusi said in a statement.

"The more we forestall the termination of the contract," he added, "the more interest and cost damages we need to pay in the future."

Under a proposed settlement agreement, the PPA will pay Blue Crown P44.18 million representing the minimum potential income of the contractor for the 15-year contract that began in 1998.

This amount excluded the P10 million in up-front payment made by the contractor to the PPA and the P4.6 million in interest earnings from that up-front payment.

This serves as the full and final settlement of the case for the pre-termination of the water contract.

The Office of the Government Corporate Counsel recently endorsed the proposed settlement.

Government Corporate Counsel Manuel Teehankee said in an opinion dated March 6 that the settlement agreement provided a waiver on the P10-million up-front money as well as the P4.64 million in interest earnings on this payment.

'Cadang-cadang' pest infestation hits coconut farms in Quezon

LUCENA CITY—Pests are threatening Quezon province's coconut farms and its potential as one of Taiwan's major sources of fresh buko, Philippine Coconut Authority administrator Danilo Coronacion has warned.

Coronacion said the "cadang-cadang" pest infestation originated in Bicol and had been detected in several coconut plantations in the island town of Jomalig in northern Quezon.

Coconut trees in the infected areas have already been "quarantined" by local PCA field workers to contain the infestation, he said.

Coronacion declined to estimate the damage caused by the infestation.

According to PCA reports, there are also some provinces in Luzon and the Visayas that are affected by cadang-cadang in varying degrees.

The rate of spread, however, is insignificant at only 0.5 kilometer a year.

Cadang-cadang is a lethal disease among palm trees.

"There's no cure except to cut the coconut trees in the area," Coronacion told members of the Interim Quezon Provincial Coconut Development Council.

"All the coco lumber that has been landing at the port of Mauban came from the area. There's no cause for alarm of illegal coconut tree cutting," he also assured members of the council.

Coronacion expressed concern that the coconut infestation in Quezon would affect the province's chance of regaining its foothold as a major source of fresh buko exports to Taiwan.

He has expressed apprehension that Cavite, Batangas and Laguna may not cope with the volume of the order once the lucrative fresh buko trade between Taiwan and the Philippines resumes. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Local execs press NSC to pay debts

ILIGAN CITY—The city government here is pressing the National Steel Corp. to settle over P655 million worth of back-taxes.

Huge losses of up to P16 billion forced the NSC to shut down in 1999, dealing Iligan City and Mindanao huge economic losses in terms of production of downstream industries and lost employment opportunities. The NSC had 2,000 employees when it closed down.

Government liquidators have since administered the NSC's properties, while the government pursues talks to resurrect the firm.

City treasurer Ernesto Balat has informed liquidators that the NSC owes the Iligan city government some P655 million in real estate taxes, interest and penalties dating back to 1999.

In an interview, Balat said the collectible prompted the city council to pass two resolutions, one ordering the City Assessor's Office to assess the NSC's property tax delinquency, and another authorizing Mayor Franklin Quijano to participate in any negotiation for the rehabilitation and reopening of the NSC.

In his letter to NSC liquidator Danilo Concepcion, Balat said the city government would take measures to collect the NSC's debts, including the issuance of a warrant of levy and notice of levy on the firm's properties. *Christine Godinez-Ortega, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

PERLA INSURANCE
PERLA COMPAÑIA DE SEGUROS, INC.
2/F Perla Compañia de Seguros Mansion
117 Carlos Palanca Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City
Synopsis of Annual Statement
As of 31 December 2002

ADMITTED ASSETS	
Bonds	P 250,423,892.40
Investments in Treasury Bills	50,960,000.00
Stocks	52,328,903.98
Real Estate	29,323,555.16
Other Loans	1,826,666.68
Security Fund	140,167.00
Other Investments	1,160,000.00
Cash on hand and in Banks	144,062,475.63
Premiums Receivable	1,895,516.07
Premiums Due From Ceding Companies	26,499.03
Premiums Reserve Withheld by Ceding Companies	247,931.90
Reinsurance Recoverable on Losses	128,805.18
Accrued Investment Income	5,884,984.43
Total Admitted Assets	**P 538,409,397.46**
LIABILITIES	
Losses and Claims Payable	P 72,184,539.60
Loss Adjustment Expenses Payable	4,954,507.00
Reserve for Unearned Premiums	48,425,525.12
Catastrophe Loss Reserve	64,845.32
Premiums Due to Reinsurers	6,562,980.41
Premiums Reserve Withheld for Reinsurers	2,602,400.08
Commissions Payable	1,912,479.82
Taxes Payable	2,671,993.05
Unearned Bond Discount	1,219,455.07
Other Liabilities	1,198,261.98
Total Liabilities	**P 141,796,987.45**
STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY	
Capital Stock Paid-Up	P 100,000,000.00
Contributed Surplus	33,000.00
Special Surplus Funds	
Fluctuation Reserve - Foreign Exchange	16,857,069.22
Retained Earnings	279,722,340.79
Total Stockholders' Equity	**396,612,410.01**
Total Liabilities & Stockholders' Equity	**P 538,409,397.46**

(This synopsis, prepared from the 2002 Annual Statement, approved by the Insurance Commissioner is published pursuant to Section 225 of the Insurance Code.)

ATTENTION: ECS Desknote patrons
In reference to the ECS Desknote and Epson C41UX bundle ad which appeared last April 21,2003 at the Business Section of PDI, we would like to clarify that the price of P29,950 indicated therein is for our starter package which includes a 10 GB HDD instead of 20 GB HDD. Please ask your dealer for other packages available and their corresponding prices prior to purchase.
We apologize for the confusion that the ad may have brought about. Nevertheless, we thank you for your continued patronage.

Presenting an opportunity to partner the global leader in IT Educational and Training.

Inviting entrepreneurs, private colleges and schools to open NIIT Computer Education Centres or collaborate for NIIT@Campus Centres.

Today, at the blink of an eye, changes around us are transforming our lives. And it therefore becomes paramount to seize the right business opportunity. A global growth area is Information Technology.

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Reap the benefits of this vast potential with the help of NIIT.

A strong international base: With more than 20 years of computer education and training experience, NIIT is a diversified global information technology services company. Having trained more than 2,000,000 students and IT professionals in India, South East Asia, the Gulf, Africa and Latin America.

Add to this, the fact that NIIT has one of the world's largest development infrastructure for multimedia based instructional software and computer based training solutions.

Global training of international standards: Our training programs are carefully designed to keep pace with international trends in Information Technology. That's why NIIT students can be found working in multinational corporations and feel at home around the world.

International benchmarks: Innovative tools and techniques developed in-house have made NIIT gain acceptance in the industry worldwide. This includes clients like AT&T, IBM, World Bank, Sun Microsystems, Hewlett Packard and Microsoft.

All this means that you could not have asked for a better partner than NIIT.

We will provide detailed business know-how and high quality course curriculum to give you that extra edge.

Alternatively, you could let this profitable opportunity pass you by.

NIIT@CAMPUS:
A unique collaboration based on advanced IT curriculum between education institutions and NIIT

NIIT EDUCATION CENTRES:
Course offerngs in IT spanning end user courses, career courses and advanced IT courses for students, professionals and corporates.

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The NIIT Edge: Trained over two million students worldwide • Ranked among the Top 15 IT educators globally • Operates in over 38 countries including Australia, USA, UK, France, Germany and Japan • One of the first organisations worldwide to receive the SEI-CMM Level 5 Certification • The preferred partner of world leaders like IBM, Oracle, Microsoft and Computer Associates • Students working in organisations like DELL and IBM.

For more details, please mail your Name, Designation, Organization/Institution information, Location of interest and contact information to arjunshankar@niit.com or call: (0916)(627-1088).

Prestige Cars Makati
1-800-10-BMW-CARS
Sheer Driving Pleasure

For your journey, we present our Anniversary Edition cars.

In commemoration of BMW's 2nd anniversary, we're offering you the Anniversary Edition 316i or a 318i limousine in custom-made specifications, including leather seats personalized with your very own initials. Only 5 units will be offered each month. So call toll free 1-800-10-BMW-CARS or 892 8127 to 29 or text (0917)892 8127 to schedule a visit to our showroom to view this limited offering. From Prestige Cars Makati. Everything BMW.

Prestige Cars Makati, Inc. 2324 Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati City • Toll Free 1-800-10-BMW-CARS • Tel. (02) 892 8127 to 29 • Fax (02) 8107325 • Showroom hours: 8am to 7pm, Monday-Sunday.

**Accommodation to our Anniversary Edition wait list is on a first-come, first-serve basis.*

People, Events & Products

E-mail: pr_pep@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Aries Espinosa
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Boracay by bus for less than P800 and 14 hours

WHO SAYS Boracay is only for the rich when one can already get to the island for less than P800?

Now, one who wishes to spend a summer vacation in Boracay will only have to prepare P740 to take him to the island via a convenient bus ride from Cubao for just a little over half a day.

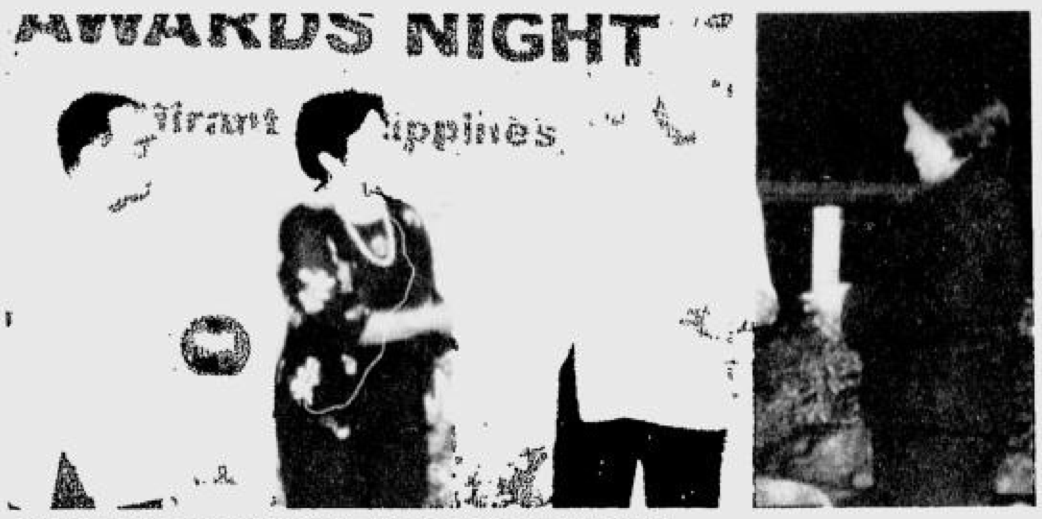
No need to take a leave-of-absence from work on your departure day just to catch the trip, as the bus (Bachelor Express) leaves the Ali Mall Terminal at 11 p.m. and proceeds to the Batangas port for a Ro-ro (roll-on, roll-off) ferry trip.

Aklan Governor Florencio T. Miraflores said the new transportation provides an advantage for tourists. In terms of fare, it is cheaper, even compared to that of the economy-class ferry ticket, which is roughly P1,000 per head, plus the land transportation expenses going to the pier. Boracay-by-bus also cuts travel time to 14 hours instead of the regular 17 to 22 hours.

Aside from the opportunity to enjoy the panoramic sights along the way, tourists will also experience island hopping as the ferry docks in Calapan, Mindoro, then Roxas City. They will then be transferred to the Roro Maharlika 3 daily to reach the newly opened Caticlan Jetty Port and Terminal at 1 p.m..

The same ferry awaits passengers at 3 p.m. daily and docks at Calapan port for the passengers' 11:30 p.m. trip via Roro Starlite Nautica Daily to Batangas. Tourists will be back at the Ali Mall Terminal at exactly 4:30 a.m., just in time to prepare for an 8 a.m. time-in at work.

Those who wish to bring their cars to Caticlan are only charged a fee of P1,495, P1,938 for van and P5, 927 for a 10-wheeler truck/bus. The first two passengers of any of the above vehicles get free tickets. Spacious and secure newly opened Caticlan Jetty Port and Terminal awaits tourists going to Boracay.



AHEAD RECEIVES GOLD QUILL MERIT AWARD

Ahead Tutorial and Review Center, a relatively small and young company, made it big in the Gold Quill 2003 Awards of the International Association of Business Communicators (IABC) Feb. 26. Its marketing communication entry, Get Ahead Gimik@Glorietta, was one of the recipients of the merit award. Ahead has become the leading tutorial and review center in the Philippines. It has been commissioned to review the students of top high schools for the entrance exams of UP, Ateneo, and La Salle. Ahead was the only small company to receive a Gold Quill this year. Shown is president and managing director Rossana Llenado receiving the Gold Quill Merit Award for Ahead Tutorial and Review Center.

Lifestyle's celebration of successful journey

GLOBAL attitudes in health have changed drastically in the past decade. And as people become more and more conscious of their body's well being, a plethora of products have been made available in the market. In the Philippines, one company has come to symbolize not only healthy living but income opportunity as well.

Lifestyles, through its now famous Intra food supplement, pioneered a multi-level marketing scheme that not only promotes health but also assures income for many Filipinos.

Lifestyle's journey to the unparalleled success it is experiencing today covers 30 countries and transacts in over 15 currencies worldwide, including the Philippines.

In thanksgiving for the many triumphs, Lifestyles Asia Pacific Philippines recently hosted a National Gala at the Manila Hotel. Highlighted by the exclusive distributor launch of the innovative Dream Diet Program and the announcement of the first international gathering of Lifestyles distributors from April 24 to 26 in Toronto, Canada, the event was a resounding victory.

Attended by top-brass international Lifestyle management team together with the local distributors, the gala night was truly a celebration of everyone's successful journey.

DBP Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Development Bank of the Philippines is inviting interested suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for:

Supply, Installation, Testing, Training and Documentation of Tape Library including bundled Backup/restore software

Approved Budget: Php 4.5MM
Contract Duration up to July 25, 2003

Application for eligibility check is open to suppliers registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission/Department of Trade and Industry and has been in the Information Technology (IT) business for at least three (3) years, and must be at least 60% Filipino-owned (for partnership and corporations). Interested suppliers may secure the Eligibility Requirement Form from April 25 to 29, 2003 at the Procurement Services Division, 6th Floor, DBP Building, Makati City. Submission of the required eligibility documents shall not be later than May 9, 2003 addressed to:

THE CHAIRMAN
Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)
Procurement Services Division/PSM
6/F, Development Bank of the Philippines
Sen. Gil J. Puyat Ave. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City
Fax No. 8151614, E-mail address: procure-psm@devbankphil.com.ph

The Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Executive Order No. 40 s. 2001 will be used in the conduct of this Bidding.

The Bank reserves the right to reject documents which do not comply with the requirements.

For further inquiries, please call Mr. Manuel A. Tagalo at telephone number 8129428.

Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI–April 16 & 23, 2003)

DBP Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Development Bank of the Philippines is inviting interested suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for:

Supply and Delivery of One Hundred One (101) units - LAN WORKSTATION

Approved Budget: Php 5.656MM
Contract Duration up to July 25, 2003

Application for eligibility check is open to suppliers registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission/Department of Trade and Industry and has been in the Information Technology (IT) business for at least three (3) years, and must be at least 60% Filipino-owned (for partnership and corporations). Interested suppliers may secure the Eligibility Requirement Form from April 25 to 29, 2003 at the Procurement Services Division, 6th Floor, DBP Building, Makati City. Submission of the required eligibility documents shall not be later than May 9, 2003 addressed to:

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Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI–April 16 & 23, 2003)

New indie mag out

WHAT constitutes a good read?

Angst is ancient. Angry men and women should cease from upping the count of the "angsty" population. Artsy-fartsy is passé, and the world is too small to accommodate individuals who have forgotten to be "grounded."

What readers need now is some slippery substance. How can substantial read be slippery?

Moist-the latest independent magazine to hit the local shelves dares you to read, be informed, get entertained, in the process "whet your mind with words". If you've heard of such promises already, Moist is the fulfillment of it, the magazine definition of a good read.

Moist is composed of five sections: "Symbols & Metaphors", for the literature section to be edited by Dr. Cirilo F. Bautista (Palanca Hall of Fame member, Centennial Literary awardee, and one of the country's foremost poets and critics), "Pananagutan", for social advocacy, "Eggheadentertainment" for the movies, music and arts section, "Project: Soul Trade" for the consumerism section, and "G-spot" for gender and relationships.

Add to that the various columns, articles and essays that cater to the target audience of Moist, which is the 18 to 30 years old-students, musicians, writers, slackers, even tattoo artists.

The maiden issue of Moist is sold at P75 and is available in magazine stands, major bookstores and curio shops.

For inquiries, call 0917-7342163 or 0918-5572354.

Over 5,700 new geodetic engineers

MORE than 5,700 junior geodetic engineers registered with the Professional Regulation Commission will be upgraded to geodetic engineers. This would be the result of the signing into law by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo of what was otherwise known as Republic Act 9200. An amended law or RA 8560, this law takes effect 15 days following its publication in major daily newspapers. This was announced by engineer Eldred P. Tumbocon, president of the Association of Junior Geodetic Engineers of the Philippines (Ajgep Inc.).

Engineer Reynaldo A. Carpio, Ajgep area chair, said the amendment provides the automatic registration without examination of all incumbent junior geodetic engineers to geodetic engineers, with certain provisions that they should have been in active practice for three years and shall have filed their application for upgrading within a prescribed period of three years upon effect of this Act. Accordingly, the examination for junior geodetic engineers shall cease to be conducted by virtue of this Act. However, all existing duly registered geodetic engineers may still continue to practice until their new license has been acted upon.

According to engineer Jeannete Co, Ajgep vice president, during the joint special meeting of the Ajgep and the Society of Filipino Geodetic Engineers (SFGE) at Quezon Memorial Circle April 1, Ms Macapagal signed the amendment into law to correct a legal infirmity and to give justice to all registered junior geodetic engineers who were deprived of the practice of their profession due to a provision of Republic Act 8560.

Dr. Anselmo Almazan, president of the SFGE and considered a consistent supporter of junior geodetic engineers, added that with the passage of RA 9200, the newly upgraded geodetic engineers will complement their elder brothers in achieving greater heights in the profession.

GMA LAUDS PNB PROJECT

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo looks on as a lady speaks via a computer with videoconferencing capability to her Kuwait-based OFW relative, courtesy of Philippine National Bank's PNB Tele-Ugnayan: Rapid Connect sa Middle East. The Chief Executive visited the videoconferencing facility installed by PNB at the ground floor of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (Owwa) headquarters along FB Harrison Street, Pasay City and talked to Philippine Ambassador to Kuwait Bayani Mangibin and OFWs via the facility. PNB initiated the project in cooperation with Owwa, Globe Telecom and Touch Mobile to help families get in touch with loved ones in the Middle East during the US-Iraq war.

CommzGATE
WELCOME
VENDORS, INTEGRATORS / DEVELOPERS

COMPUFIX LAUNCHES COMMZGATE

Compufix recently launched CommzGate SMS Application Server at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel March 14. CommzGate enables companies to create their own mobile business network via text/SMS messaging. Interested companies can now avail themselves of CommzGate through Compufix Inc.'s wide network of channel partners.

Clips

Ateneo-La Salle golf prize

SUMMER heats up as the decades-old rivalry between Ateneo and La Salle flares up again, this time at the golf course at the 3rd Annual Ateneo-La Salle Golf Classic, exclusively presented by the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) on April 24 and 25 in Cebu City. A brand new Isuzu Fuego pick-up will be up for grabs as a prize for a hole-in-one at any of the nine par-3 holes at the Alta Vista Golf Club and Cebu Country Club during the two-day tournament. In addition, a Skygo streetbike (150 cc) wil also be given away to any eagle scored in a par-4 hole. If no eagle is scored, the Skygo will be raffled off among tournament participants along with a generous slew of other prizes: five units of 25-inch color TVs, Nike golf equipment from Pacsports and complimentary gift certificates from Cebu City Marriott Hotel and Plantation Bay Resort and Hotel. Tournament participation is limited to 250 entries. Students and alumni of both schools are eligible to join. Interested participants from all over the Philippines may register through the Ateneo Alumni Association of Cebu by calling Maritez at (032) 231-3560 during office hours.

Grand Lodge Ancom 2003

THE ANNUAL Communication (Ancom) of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines scheduled from April 24 to 26 has been transferred to Manila from Davao City. All activities during the Ancom will be held at the Plaridel Masonic Temple, 1440 San Marcelino Street, Ermita, Manila. The transfer of venue would be for the best interest of the welfare of the delegates to the Ancom and the Freemasonry. MW Eugenio S. Labitoria, grand master of Masons in the Philippines, has so ordered.

AMI Corporate Games 2003

THE ASSOCIATION of Makati Industries Inc. will launch its AMI Corporate Games 2003 with the AMI-Rogin E 5-km fitness run on Saturday, April 26 at 5:30 a.m. The venue is from Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue (in front of Telecoms Plaza) to Paseo de Roxas, Makati Avenue, Pasay Road, Paseo de Roxas, Ayala Avenue back to Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City. The AMI Corporate Games runs year long, with events including the Executive Golf Challenge (Manila Golf & Country Club on May 30), Darts Tournament (June), Basketball/Volleyball Tournaments (July to August 2003) and Bowling Tournament (September to October 2003).

Free movies in Dunkin Promo

CUSTOMERS of selected Dunkin Donuts outlets in Metro Manila and Cebu have won free premiere tickets to the adventure movie "X-Men 2 and other goodies such as donuts, softdrinks, munchkins and coffee via the Pick-A-Prize promo which concluded April 19. The blockbuster movie will have its premiere night on April 24, 7:30 p.m. at Cinema 10 of SM Megamall and April 26 at SM Cebu.

New TV program for workforce launched

"EVERY qualified Filipino has a job that enables him or her to live with dignity, a country with zero unemployment, and a globally competitive workforce." This is the vision of "Workforce."

"Workforce" is a 30-minute television program on RPN-9 aired every Sunday at 2 p. m. that serves as a venue for both job seekers and employers. Tita Datu Puangco, columnist of Philippine Daily Inquirer's People at Work and president of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting, hosts the program.

Its pilot episode aired last March 9 and was formally launched to the media and advertising agencies last Tuesday, April 8. The launch was well represented by both media and advertising agencies including Philippine Daily Inquirer, "People at Work sa DZRH," People in Jobs, Inc. and Smart Communications.

During the launch, Puangco shared some dismal labor statistics that showed that there are 3 million Filipinos who are unemployed or underemployed and 700,000 new graduates who are currently seeking employment. In addition, she also mentioned that a number of graduates since 2001 have not yet been employed up to the present. She also says that there is a mismatch between available manpower and available jobs due to inadequate national manpower planning, wasted scarce resources and the brain drain.

She pointed out that if the current trends continue, by the year 2030, our children will experience far worse conditions than what we have today like a population of 160 million-of which 70 to 90 million (equivalent to our current population) will live below the poverty line. She also predicted that unless appropriate programs are put into place, in the future, we may be competing not against Thailand or Vietnam but against Bangladesh and that we will be the most corrupt nation in Asia if not the world-we are already ranked number 11 by Transparency International.

Puangco emphasizes, "The signs are clear. Our nation is headed towards an irreversible path of economic decline and moral decadence and we can not rely on government alone to do the turnaround job!"

In this backdrop, "Workforce" was conceptualized to bridge the gap between job seekers and headhunters and tackle the issues of finding, retaining, and doing well at work.

FOR
D IN FINDI
RPN
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National Ne

PUANGCO during the launching of "Workforce"

Successful...

From page B0

way. "How you're perceived by management can make a difference in your rise or fall in the company. Whether it's real or not, you're stuck with that perception."

Identifying who he was and what he wanted was a major crisis in Santamaria's development as a corporate man. "I was determined to grow and move up. I always did my best. In sales, I made sure I was ahead. I set goals for myself. When I had achieved a certain level, I made sure I moved higher. Every opportunity became a challenge," says Santamaria. His career peaked in the 80s but retirement soon followed.

Career switch

His one regret, says Santamaria, is that he could have moved to another job and earned more. There certainly was no lack of offers. "I was offered a position in another pharmaceutical firm when I was marketing manager. But it did not appeal to me. Besides, I felt a great deal of loyalty for Mead Johnson." Moreover, he enjoyed good relations with the organization and relished the challenge of what he was doing.

Consultancy was farthest from Santamaria's mind, though he immediately saw the challenge it presented. Exposure to training programs when he was in marketing had sparked his interest. His experience as a student leader at the University of the Philippines, where he finished his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and in Foreign Service, had broadened his perspective. He also taught English for four years at Feati University.

Service

Not surprisingly, Santamaria is motivated by a sense of service. "It's gratifying that through the service we render, we're able to help bring about personal or organizational transformation." Seeing clients improve and assume higher positions in the workplace is a constant source of fulfillment. It is, in fact, the driving spirit that pushes him forward. "It goes beyond monetary considerations," avers Santamaria.

Perhaps it's what kept them afloat and encouraged them to persist while a number of companies foundered during two critical periods: in 1986 and again, in 1997. "What keeps us going is the conviction that the work we do is fulfilling our mission in life," explains Santamaria, adding that the sense of mission he shares with his wife is the underlying reason for everything they do.

Long before he thought of joining CSI, Santamaria dreamed of being on his own, of being his own boss someday. He imagined doing it when he got tired of the corporate life. "I did not realize until later that my prayers had been answered and that the Lord had led me to where I wanted to be," he remarks. "I believe I have achieved something worthwhile for God, for man, for my country and for myself."

(For more information on CSI, visit their web site at www.careersystems.com.ph. Career Systems Inc. invites the public to their 20th year anniversary celebration at the People at Work Live! Seminar Series on Career Development Strategies on May 27, 28, and 29, 2003. CEOs of top corporations and CSI consultants will share their expertise and experiences from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. each day at the Santiago Hall, Equitable PCI Bank Tower 1, Makati Ave., Makati City. For inquiries, call 935-6678.)

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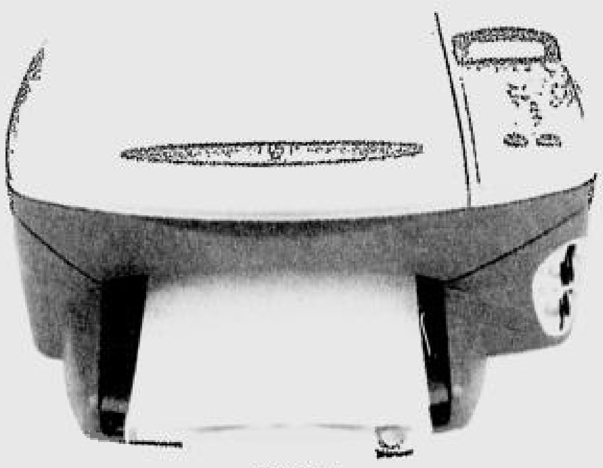

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NEEDED IMMEDIATELY

The **Department of Social Welfare and Development** (DSWD) has received a loan from the World Bank toward the cost of the Early Childhood Development Project and intends to apply a portion of this loan to eligible payments under this contract.

The ECD Project now invites interested applicants for the Translation and Printing of **QUESTION AND ANSWER PRIMER.** Applicants must have at least 3 to 5 years experience in translating materials into Filipino language.

Interested applicants may submit their Application Letters, Curriculum Vitaés and sample works to The Director, Administrative Service, 2nd Floor, DSWD Central Office, Batasan Pambansang Complex, Constitution Hills, Quezon City or e-mail at ecd.admin@dswd.gov.ph. For more details, please contact Ms. Bernadette Rosario S. Aligaen at telephone number **951-7440.**

(PDI - Apr 23 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Ground Floor, Rizal Building, DepEd Complex
Meralco Avenue, Pasig City

Loan # 1654-PHI

INVITATION TO BID

The Republic of the Philippines, through the Department of Education (DepEd), has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) towards the financing of the Secondary Education Development and Improvement Project (SEDIP). Part of the loan proceeds is intended for eligible payments in the proposed ***Renovation of the Instructional Materials Council Secretariat (IMC'S) Office***, covering Rooms 501, 502, 503, 504, 505 and 506 including the existing toilets at the 5th Floor, Mabini Building, DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City.

Bidding is open to all Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) - registered contractors or joint venture contractors with valid PCAB license.

Scope of works includes, i) rehabilitation of flooring; ii) repair/improvement of ceiling board and partitions; iii) replacement of doors and jambs, iv) repair of windows; v) repair/improvement of comfort rooms; vi) painting works; and vii) electrical works.

Bidders may obtain further information and acquire the bidding documents from:

The BAC Secretariat
Ground Floor, Mabini Building
DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue,
Pasig City

A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested eligible bidders starting **April 21, 2003** until 5:00 p.m. of **April 30, 2003** upon submission of a Letter of Intent to the above office and upon payment of a non-refundable fee amounting to P500.00 to the DepEd cashier.

A pre-bid conference shall be conducted on **April 30, 2003** at 10:00 a.m. to be held at the Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal I Building, DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City.

The bids, together with their supporting documents must be submitted to the aforesaid venue on **May 14, 2003** between 8:00 to 10:00 a.m. All bids will be opened at 10:10 a.m. in the presence of the bidders or their legally authorized representatives.

(Sgd.) **JUAN MIGUEL M. LUZ**
Undersecretary and Chairman,
DepEd Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - Apr 17 & 23 2003)

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PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that estate of the late Spouses Eduardo Taylor & Soledad Manzano Taylor consisting of property at Manila Memorial Park, P'que MM was extrajudicially settled by their heirs per Doc.16658 Page54 Book 45 Series2003 before Atty. Danilo Banares of Mktl City.
PDI-April 23,30 & May 7,2003

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the late **BENJAMIN LUNA BARGAS** who died on October 27, 2002 in Makati City has been the subject of an extrajudicial settlement on April 21, 2003, by and among his heirs wherein they agreed to divide the estae accordingly, as evidenced in the document executed and acknowledged before Notary Public Gina C Garcia of Makati City, and entered in her Notarial Registry as Doc No. 238, Page No. 48, Book II, Series of 2003
(PDI-Apr 23, 30 & May 7, 2003)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Alfredo P Casino was extrajudicially settled among his heirs as per Doc No 233, Page No 48, Book No. XXXVIII, Series of 2003 of Notary Public Alfonso Y Lacap of Pasig City
(PDI-April 23, 30, May 7, 2003)

BOARD OF INVESTMENTS
DTI TRADE & INDUSTRY PHILIPPINES

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the application of TGA FARMS INC. with office address at Purok 2, San Roque Bitas, Arayat, Pampanga for registration with the Board of Investments under Book I of the Omnibus Investments Code of 1987, otherwise known as E.O. 226, as Amended, as Expanding Fishery Producer at the following capacity

Tilapia Fingerlings – 47.7 million pieces per year
Full Grown Tilapia – 218.2 MTPY

with project site at same office address stated above has been officially accepted on April 14, 2003 and is currently being processed.

Any person with valid objections to or pertinent comments on the above-mentioned application may file his/her objection, in writing under oath, with the BOI within one (1) week from the date of this publication.

Issued this 14th day of April 2003.

(Sgd.) FRANCISCO C. CHAVEZ
Director
Project Evaluation and Registration Department

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- 3 and 1/2 months old
- Heavy boned
- 2 shots/dewormed
- 5 males

16 thousand php each
Look for: Boy Lee
9413242 • 0918-3543817

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF LOSS

MBTC STOCK CERT. 127130 1,185 SHS.n/o DAN T.DOMINGO

PERSONAL

PRAYER TO HOLY SPIRIT

Holy Spirit Thou who make me see everything and show me the way to reach my ideal. You who give me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and who are in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dialogue, want to thank You for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from You no matter how great the material desires may be. I want to be with You and my loved ones in Your perpetual glory. Amen. - TRP

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

B/SELL FULLY PD EDUC PLAN 780-0106 / 0920-4188588

Earn & Travel 0917-8468644

Earn Fr. Home & Travel 8376068

•TRVL N WORK FR HOME• 8531008 0917-8901851 travelandworkfromhome.com

Infant Kidswear 09103952974

Internet Cards TRI-ISYS 35% Blast39% Pacific40% 255-2608

TECHNILINK PHILIPPINES CORPORATION
POEA License No. 584-LB-121702-R

2nd Floor Dow Jones Building KM.19 West Service Road
Sucat, Parañaque City 1770 Tel. 7767210-12

For the **ACJV Bayu-Undan Gas Recycle Project**, Hook-up and Commissioning in Offshore East Timor.

Our client, FRASER DIVING SERVICES (Accre. No. C-7498-2) invites personnel with the following trade and recent references.

- **WELDERS** with exp. in FCAW, GTAW and SMAW. Must have recent references. **OFFSHORE** welders will be given preference but offshore experience is **not** essential.

Submit 2 sets of résumés with detailed job description, employment, training certificates and recent 2x2 photo. **VALID PASSPORT MUST BE PRESENTED.** email: technilinkcv@pacific.net.ph (Word format, no picture attached pls.)

BEWARE OF ILLEGAL RECURITERS
NO FEES TO BE COLLECTED

TransCo
National Transmission Corporation

Date : April 01, 2003
Reference No. :

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

1. Contract Code : **Sp99.N4P4.Vc-0282**
   Title : **Construction, Erection and Installation of 138 & 69KV Substation Equipment under the Negros IV – Panay IV Substation Projects, Schedule IV – Sta. Barbara Substation**
   Location **Sta. Barbara, Iloilo**
2. The works to be completed by the successful bidder shall consist of furnishing all superintendence, labor, materials, supplies, tools and equipment (except materials and equipment specified to be furnished by TRANSCO), and constructing complete the substation and installing all substation equipment to complete the Construction, Erection and Installation of 138 & 69kV Substation Equipment for Schedule IV – Sta. Barbara Substation in accordance with the Plans and Specifications. The work also includes construction of new control house, warehouse, guardhouse, pump house, oil water separator and water tank and water tank foundation;
3. The Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid is **TWENTY MILLION FOUR HUNDRED SIXTY THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED FIVE & 00/100 (PHP20,460,505.00)** from the Internal Cash Generation (ICG) of National Transmission Corporation.
4. Application for Eligibility is open to Filipino contractors who have the legal, technical and financial requisites of the contract to be bid/project with the following License and Registration Particulars.
   License at least "**Category A – Specialty: Electrical Works**"
   Registration : at least "**Medium B – Specialty: Electrical Works**"
5. Application for Eligibility shall be evaluated using "PASS/FAIL" criteria and only Eligible Bidders shall be invited by Transco in the bidding. All bids equal to or lower than the Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid shall be evaluated based on the responsiveness of the contractor's offer to the contract under bidding subject to Postqualification before an award is made. Bid Prices submitted higher than the Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid shall be rejected and returned outright.
6. Eligibility Documents and Forms will be available for issuance on April 08, 2003 at the Bids and Contracts Management Department, Second Floor, Building No. 2, NPC-OBC, National Transmission Corporation, Agham Road corner Quezon Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City 1104, Telefax No.: 921-23-08 upon presentation of Letter of Intent, Contractor's License and a payment of non-refundable fee of P800.00 per copy.
7. Deadline for submission of duly accomplished Application for Eligibility, Forms, documents and statements shall be on or before **May 08, 2003** and shall be submitted of the registration office and address mentioned above. If the date is a non-working day or declared non-working day, the deadline for submission shall be moved to the next working day immediately following said date. Late submission and/or incomplete application shall not be accepted.
8. Contractor, not yet included in the Transco's List of Registered Contractors, who wishes to participate in the public bidding, in order to facilitate eligibility check/screening, are requested to register with the registration office mentioned above by submitting the following basic requirements which sould be maintained current and updated at least once a year. A Certificate of Registration will be issued to contractors upon approval.
   - Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) business name registration or Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) registration certificate, as appropriate;
   - Mayor's permit and/or municipal license for the current year;
   - Taxpayer's Identification Number;
   - Notarized statement of the prospective bidder that it is not "blacklisted" or barred from bidding by any government agency, office or corporation, including, in the case of procurement of civil works, non-inclusion in the "blacklist" of contractors issued by the CIAP;
   - Audited financial statements, stamped "received" by the BIR or its duly accredited and authorized institutions, for the immediately preceding calendar year, showing, among others, the prospective bidder's total and current assets and liabilities inclusive of Income Tax Return and Receipt;
   - Contractor's License.
9. TransCo reserves the right to reject any Application for Eligibility or all bids or request for registration without offering any reasons, waive any required formality therein, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.
10. Additional Information shall be furnished upon request. All communications should be addressed to the undersigned at the aforementioned address.

(Sgd.) WINIFREDO SM. PANGILINAN
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – April 20, 21 & 23, 2003)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
BUREAU OF FIRE PROTECTION
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE (BAC)

April 14, 2003

INVITATION TO BID

The Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) of the Department of the Interior and Local Government is inviting duly registered and BFP accredited health care providers to participate in the bidding to be conducted by Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) for the Health Care/Maintenance Insurance Services of all BFP officials and personnel.

Interested bidders who wish to apply for eligibility and to bid must submit Letter of Intent together with BFP Accreditation Certificate and other relevant documents on or before the deadline on April 28, 2003 addressed to:

The CHAIRMAN, BFP BAC
Bureau of Fire Protection
Rm. 403, #145 Union Square Condominium
15th Avenue, Cubao, Quezon City

Bid documents may be obtained at the Bureau of Fire Protection Bids and Awards Committee, Room 403, Union Square Condominium I, 15th Avenue, Cubao, Quezon City on April 30, May 2 & 5, 2003 during office hours from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM with Telephone No. 911-9055 (Attn: FO1 Blesila C Manaois, Secretariat), upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P3,000.00 in cash at Finance Service Unit, Room 610. The Pre-bid Conference will be held on May 18, 2003 at Rm. 101, BFP Conference Room.

The Bid Security shall be in amount equivalent to a percentage of the BFP approved budget for contract to be bid in accordance with the following schedule:

Form of Security	Minimum Amount in % of Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid
1. Cash, Certified Check, Cashier's Check, Manager's Check, Bank Draft or Irrevocable Letter of Credit	One percent (1%)
2. Bank Guarantee	One and a half percent (1 ½%)
3. Surety Bond	Two and a half percent (2 ½%)

The BFP BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any required formality and award the contract to any bidder whose proposal as evaluated by BAC is the most advantageous to the government. The BAC assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) JOSE E. COLLADO
SR SUPT (DSC) BFP
Deputy Fire Chief for Operation
and Chairman BFP BAC

Inquirer April 16 & 23 2003

Hokei Subic Corporation

#40 Golden Future St. Cor. Alm High Ave.
SBIP Phase I, SBFZ

Is need of:

PLANT MANAGER: Male/Female, 24 years of age and above, preferably a Filipino-Chinese or Taiwanese. A graduate of 4-year courses in any prestigious Universities and Colleges in Manila, Must have a Masteral Degree, Must have at least 1 (one) year experience in a manufacturing firm preferably bag industry, With good communication skills oral and written, Must be fluent in English and Mandarin, Pokien, Computer Literate knowledge in MS Office and Internet, Career Oriented, Willing to work under high pressure, can work with a minimal supervision, Willing to work in Subic Olongapo.

ASST. PLANT MANAGER: Male/Female, 24 years of age and above, Must be a Filipino-Chinese or Taiwanese, preferably 4-year courses in any prestigious Universities and Colleges in Manila, Must have at least 1 (one) year experience in a manufacturing firm preferably bag industry, With good communication skills oral and written, must be fluent in English and Mandarin, Pokien, Computer Literate knowledge in MS Office and Internet, Career Oriented, Willing to work under high pressure, can work with a minimal supervision. Willing to work in Subic Olongapo.

MOLDING ENGINEER HEAD: Male, 22 years of age and above, Must be a Filipino-Chinese or Taiwanese preferably graduate of MECHANICAL ENGINEER, must passed the board exam, With 1 (one) year experience in the same field of a manufacturing firm, must be fluent in Mandarin, English and Pokien, Willing to work under high pressure, can work with a minimal supervision, Willing to work in Subic Olongapo.

Interested applicants may call and send their comprehensive Resumé with 2x2 colored picture to Ms. Erly R. Bautista at tel. no (047) 2525395-96 and at the above address.

Republic of the Philippines
ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL OF A REDUCTION IN RATES IN COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 60 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO 9136 AND EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 119, WITH PRAYER FOR PROVISIONAL AUTHORITY

ERC CASE NO. 2003-14

PANGASINAN I ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE, INC. (PANELCO I)
Applicant
x- -x

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

Notice is hereby given of the filing by applicant Pangasinan I Electric Cooperative Inc (PANELCO I) on February 14, 2003 of an application for the approval of a reduction in rates in compliance with Section 60 of Republic Act No 9136 and Executive Order No 119, with prayer for provisional authority, docketed as ERC Case No. 2003-14. The applicant proposed a reduction in rates equivalent to P 0.29957/kWh as a result of the condonation of its debts in accordance with R.A. 9136 and Executive Order No 119

The Commission has set the application for hearing on May 22, 2003 at two-thirty (2:30 P.M.) in the afternoon at Rock Garden Resort, Arnedo, Bolinao, Pangasinan.

All interested parties who may wish to comment on or oppose the said application should file their comments and/or oppositions on or before the date of hearing. Such parties who may wish to have the details of the application and who shall have manifested to the Commission their desire and intention to participate actively in the proceedings, may request that before the date of hearing, they be furnished with copies of the application by the applicant, which is hereby directed to furnish the parties making such request with copies of the application and its attachments. Likewise, any such interested party may examine the application and other pertinent records filed with the Commission during the usual office hours.

WITNESS, the Honorables LETICIA V. IBAY, MARY ANNE B. COLAYCO, OLIVER B. BUTALID, and CARLOS R. ALINDADA, Commissioners, Energy Regulatory Commission, this 21st day of March, 2003 at Pasig City.

(Sgd.) FRUCTUOSO C. LAGUNZAD, JR.
Executive Director III

(PDI – April 23 & 30, 2003)

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION
OF
ANAM INSTRUMENTS (PHILIPPINES), INC.

Notice is hereby given that **ANAM INSTRUMENTS (PHILIPPINES), INC.** will file with the Securities and Exchange Commission a Certificate of Amendment of Articles of Incorporation shortening its corporate life to March 31, 2003.

Any person who may have a claim against said corporation may present the same to the undersigned at c/o ALPAP 1 Bldg., 5th Floor, 140 L.P. Leviste Street, Salcedo Village, 1227 Makati City.

This announcement serves as notice to all parties concerned of the dissolution of said Company.

(Sgd.) **RENATO G. CALMA**
Corporate Secretary
ANAM INSTRUMENTS (PHILIPPINES), INC.

(PDI–April 16, 23 & 30, 2003)

Office of the President

BCDA

Bases Conversion Development Authority

INVITATION FOR PROPOSALS

ASSET DISPOSITION PROGRAM – PHASE 2

The Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) is inviting interested proponents to participate in Phase 2 of BCDA's Asset Disposition Program (ADP Phase 2). ADP Phase 2 involves the development and privatization of the following BCDA properties:

- Twenty-five (25) hectares located at Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila, bounded on the north by American Battle Monument and east by C-5; and
- Five (5) hectares located at the former Camp Bago Bantay, Brgy. Sto. Cristo, Bago-Bantay, Quezon City between SM City Annex and Mindanao Avenue.

Interested proponents may submit their Letters of Interest to BCDA and can purchase the Terms of Reference (TOR) for ADP Phase 2 that outlines, among others, the requirements for proponents interested to participate in the privatization.

The TORs for the above properties will be ready for distribution to interested proponents by 23 April 2003 at the BCDA offices at a non-refundable cost of Php10,000.00 for each TOR, payable to BCDA in Cash or Manager's Check.

A pre-qualification conference among interested proponents is set for 2:00 p.m., 07 May 2003. The objective of the pre-qualification conference is to discuss the property, the TOR and other issues that may be raised by interested proponents.

Interested proponents can direct their inquiries to Ms. Aileen An. R. Soza or Ms. Bambie L. Andal at telephone numbers 510-0420 to 510-0411 or at arzosa@bcda.gov.ph or blandal@bcda.gov.ph

(Sgd.) RUFO COLAYCO
President and Chief Executive Officer

(PDI April 16, 23 & 30, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
City of Parañaque
Metro Manila

Office of the Treasurer

NOTICE OF AUCTION SALE

To satisfy the real estate tax deliquency of the following taxpayers, computation of which includes interest, surcharges and penalties thereon as of December 31, 2002 and after substantially complying with the pertinent provisions of Republic Act. 7160, the City Mayor through the undersigned City Treasurer, hereby gives notice to all interested parties and to the public in general that on **May 7, 2003 at 9:00 o'clock in the morning at the Legislative Building 2nd Floor City Hall of Parañaque City**, the City Treasurer or his authorized representatives will sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash and in Philippine Currency, the real estate properties described below:

Declared Owner / Location	Area (Sqm.)	Classification / Delqcy Yr.	Tax Dec. Numbers	Amount of Delinquency	Interest Due as of March, 2003	Total Amt. of Delinquency
1. Edwin Olivarez Lot-15-A-Blk.-101 Bresbane St. Phase 3 Bgy. B.F. Homes		Res. Imp. 1996-2002	E001-00436	94,942.40	60,220.59	155,162.99
2. Sps. Pablo Olivarez and Rosario De Leon TCT-(S-26159) 94983 Lot-4734-A Bgy. B.F. Homes	7,557	Others Rawland 1988-2002	E001-00888	163,775.40	132,485.67	296,261.07
3. Olivarez Realty Corp. Cinema 1 & 2 Balcony Lobby Projector Room Stalls Corridor Parking Space Lot-2-E, 2-F Bgy. San Dionisio	1,796.87 827.40 181.12 54 1,717.25 658.75 1,529.50	Com. Imp. 1996-2002	E010-02952	4,044,658.80	2,565,469.26	6,610,128.06
4. Pablo Olivarez Warehouse Office Sucat Road Bgy. San Dionisio	1,530 7,498 3,905	Ind. Bldg. (Uniwide Imp.) 1989-2002	E010-05999	7,795,333.60	8,511,336.76	16,306,670.36
5. Pablo Olivarez Bgy. San Dionisio		Ind. Imp. 1985-2002	E010-06332	1,969,783.20	2,422,284.94	4,392,068.14
6. Olivarez General Hospital. Sucat Road Bgy. San Dionisio		Hospital 1986-2002	E010-06635	103,831.50	138,713.59	242,545.09
7. Esteban Cruz TCT No. (S-50780) Olivarez Realty Corp. TCT - (111761) - 132125 Pablo R. Olivarez & Sps. Rosario DL. Olivarez TCT-(111762)- 48395 TCT-(111763) - 20359 Dr. A. Santos Ave. Bgy. San Isidro	19,390 11,413 3,455 4,522	Land. Com. (Uniwide) Comm'l. Land Com. Land Com. Land 1996-2002	E011-03611	5,497,065.00	3,402,945.00	8,900,010.00
8. Pablo & Rosario Olivarez, 1st Floor 2nd Floor Bgy. San Dionisio	2,520 280 280	Warehouse 1993-2002	E010-07632	2,804,928.00	1,851,252.43	4,656,180.43
				Sub-Total		41,559,026.14
9. Ma. Hilda C. Badong TCT-116855 Bgy. Moonwalk	600	Land. Res. 2001-2002	E008-06732	5,760.00	2,419.20	8,179.20
10. Ma. Hilda C. Badong Bgy. Moonwalk		Bldg. Res. 1990-2002	E008-06733	160,379.36	155,312.64	315,692.00
11. People's Air Cargo & Warehousing Co. Inc. Warehouse 1st Flr. Office Second Floor Third Floor Tower Locker Shed Parking Bgy. Sto. Niño	171,160 3,932 3,932 350 475 2,400 17,678.01	Com. Impv. 1997-2002	E013-03548	23,637,065.40	14,654,980.56	38,292,045.96
12. Apolinario Nery Bgy. Sn Martin De Porres		1994-2002	E012-04110	165,240.00	106,822.80	272,062.80
13. Precillano G. Santos TCT-37988 Santos Compound Bgy. Don Bosco	5,724	Land Res. 1979-2002	E003-01273	278,392.80	287,989.68	566,382.48
				Sub-Total		39,454,362.44

(Sgd.) LIBERATO M. CARABEO
City Treasurer

(PDI – April 23 & 30, 2003)

UCPB Rural Bank, Inc.
EXECUTIVE OFFICE

UCPB RURAL BANK, INC.
NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of the UCPB Rural Bank, Inc. will be held on April 28, 2003 at 3:00 p.m. at the UCPB Rural Bank, Inc. Laguindingan Head Office, Laguindingan, Misamis Oriental.

The Agenda of the Meeting is as follows:

1. Call to Order
2. Proof of Notice of Meeting
3. Certification of Quorum
4. Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Stockholders Meeting held on June 3, 2002.
5. Chairman's Annual Report
6. Approval of the Audited Financial Statements
7. Ratification of all acts and proceedings of all acts of the Board of Directors and of Management since the last stockholders meeting.
8. Election of the Members of the Board of Directors
9. Other matters
   a) Appointment of External Auditor
10. Adjournment

(Sgd.) JOSE A. BARCELON
Corporate Secretary

Republic of the Philippines
ISABELA STATE UNIVERSITY
Echague, Isabela

INVITATION TO BID

The Isabela State University invites interested and qualified suppliers for the following:

Units	DESCRIPTION
300 units	1 7 GHZ intel celeron
	Amd athlon xp 1800+
	1 7 ghz intel pentium IV
	Network installation per unit (workstation) including UTP cables with RJ 45 rack
13 units	Specification for server
	2 5 ghz intel pentium IV processor, intel genuine motherboard, 512 mb ddram memory, 64 mb agp graphics card, 40 gb seagate harddisk drive 72 rpm with fan, 1 44" floppy disk drive, d-link land card (or equiv), 56k internal modem, 52x24x52 cd read/write, 52x cd rom drive w/ soundcard and speaker (optional), atx casing with 300 w ps, pd2 kb and chasis fan, 700 va ups smart comfact fit, 17" svga flat screen color monitor
	Other Items
5 units	32 ports shub – Edimax/Cnet/Dlink
3 units	24 ports shub – Edimax/Cnet/Dlink
5 units	16 ports shub – Edimax/Cnet/Dlink
13 units	LX 300+Printer EPSON
5 rolls	UTP Cables
	Software Microsoft Windows 2000XP

The above-items are for either lease-purchase or outright purchase

Pre-qualification requirements should be submitted on or before April 30, 2003, at the Office of the Chair for Bids and Awards Committee. The Isabela State University reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any informality or accept such bids as may be considered advantageous to the government.

Interested bidders may obtain further information from the PBAC Secretariat, Office of the Vice President for Administration and Finance, ISU, Echague, Isabela or call (078) 672-2020 and 672-2108.

(Sgd) ROMEO R QUILANG
[illegible]

(PDI - April 23, 2003)

B12
CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DIVISION
Main Office: PASONG TAMO, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8972535 (Direct) ☎ 8978808 (Trunk) Fax 8974808
G/F ATRIUM BLDG., MAKATI AVENUE, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8114361 ☎ 8114370 ☎ 8114012 Fax 8925578
ST. ANTHONY'S BLDG., AURORA BLVD., QUEZON CITY
☎ 912-9008-11 Fax 912-9011
SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6872354 ☎ 6872366 Fax 6350220
G/F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
☎ 5273342 ☎ 5280183 ☎ 5276357 Fax 5280213
ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA CITY
☎ 8424503 ☎ 8506465 Fax 8506465
e-mail address: main_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23, 2003

OBITUARIES

NACIONAL MEMORIAL HOMES
The choice of the country's most discriminating families over the last 103 years
#264 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. 7135231 to 35; 7140867-68
Fax No. 714-0865

God indeed is my Savior, I am confident and unafraid,
my strength and my courage is the Lord;
With joy you will draw water at the fountain of salvation
and say on that day: Give Thanks to the Lord!
Isaiah 12:2-3

Our Dearly Beloved

MANUEL TIU PENG
李顯輝

of City of San Pablo

Peacefully joined our Risen Lord
on Tuesday, April 22, 2003 at the age of 88.

Wife : **Wong Fung Chi**

Children and Children-in-Law : **Nenita (Kim Chu)** and **Jose Yu Cheung, (Chiquito) Tin Chee** and **Angelie Co**

Grandchildren and Grandchildren-in-Law : **Lily, Eric, Willy, Edwina** and **Richmond Ong, June** and **Josephine Co, Edison, Joseph** and **Arlene Chan, Elizabeth** and **Hizon Uy, Amparo** and **Francis Aswin, Evelyn, Ernesto** (†), **Arlene, Eric, Eugenio** and **Rachael Ong, Eisenhower, Edward, Edmund, Emerson** and **Aimee**

Great Grandchildren : **Jeffrey, Kevin, Jackie, Hans, Kelly Junine** and **Karl Matthew**

and all relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the Resurrecion Chapel San Pablo Cathedral, City of San Pablo.

Interment will be at San Pablo Chinese Cemetery, City of San Pablo on Tuesday, April 29, 2003 after the 8:00 a.m. Mass at Resurrecion Chapel, San Pablo Cathedral.

I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.
John 14:6

The Management & Staff of
FEDERAL MEDICAL & PHARMACEUTICAL, INC.
Condoles with the family of the late

LUIS K. S. LIM

Chairman of the Board

Who peacefully joined our Creator on April 19, 2003 at the age of 85.

His bereaved wife **Chua Siam**

His Children, Grandchildren, Great grandchildren:

- **Lucila**
- **Lucio & Lourdes**
  - **Lorraine**
  - **Lawrence & Shirley**
    - **Lauren Stephen**
    - **Lauren Stevenson**
  - **Laurette & Dexter**
  - **Loulejon**
  - **Larajane**
- **Lourdes**
- **Florencio & Joyce**
  - **Janelle & Donn**
    - **Miguel Iñigo**
  - **Frederick Joel**
  - **Francis Julian**
  - **Jaquelyn Florence**
- **Margarita & Edgar (†)**
- **Evaristo & Betty**
  - **Barbara Jane**
  - **Eugene Brian**
  - **Edwin Benson**
  - **Endee Kristel**

His Brothers & Sister:
Narciso & Nita, Cirilo, Juanita, Marcelo (†), Alexander (†)
His body lies in state at Funeraria Paz, Chapel B, North Wing, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.
Interment to be announced later.

Notice of Death

"Surely Goodness and Mercy shall follow Me all the days of My life and I shall dwell In the House of the Lord, Forever"
Psalm 23

MARILOU AGRAVIADOR POPERA

of Liloy, Zamboanga del Norte and Divisoria, Zamboanga City Peacefully joined her Creator on April 13, 2003 at the age of 40. She was very much loved and will be missed by everyone whose live she touched.

Her bereaved husband : **Arthur**
Her children : **Jappy, Gingging, Maryon, Pitchie**
Parents : **Buenaventura, Sr. & Sabina Agraviador**
Parents-in-law : **Simplicio (†) & Rizalina Popera**
Jesus & Lucena Atilano

Brothers/Sisters and In-laws:

Wilfredo & Ursulina, Antonio & Merlinda, Jemela & John Nettles, Servideo & Juliet, Buenaventura Jr., & Susan, Renita & Noli, Roy Popera, Rizza & Roly, Luzcile & Ronneal

Nephews, nieces & all other relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at her residence in Zone 2, Divisoria, Zamboanga City. Interment will be on Wednesday, April 30, 2003, at the Chinese Garden, Forest Lake Memorial Park, Tumaga, Zamboanga City after the 2:00 p.m. funeral mass at Saint Anthony de Padua Parish Church, Putik, Zamboanga City.

In lieu of flowers, donations for the construction of San Miguel Chapel in Liloy, Zamboanga del Norte will be greatly appreciated.

BRIG. GEN. VALENTIN DIOSOMITO VELASCO (RET.), M.D.

Born: Dec. 24, 1911 Died: April 21, 2003

Wife **Concepcion U. Velasco**; children **Candida (†), Roberto & Mary Jo, Alfredo, Ernesto & Josephine, Benjamin & Blesilda**; grandchildren **Alan, Natalie, Donna, Cindy, Jennifer, Nico, Francis, Andrew, Mathew**; sisters, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at Sacred Heart Church Chapel A, Jakosalem St., Cebu City. Novena prayers and Mass is offered every night at 8:00 p.m.

Interment will be on Thursday, April 24, 2003 at Queen City Memorial Gardens, Cebu City after the 3:00 p.m. requiem Mass at Sacred Heart Church.

"Behold my servant whom I have chosen my beloved in whom I delight"
Matthew 12:18

Atty. Jose J. Tapia

Peacefully joined his Creator on April 12, 2003, at the age of 73, born April 18, 1929.

His loving wife **Tita**; children **Babes, Ellen, Prem & Gina, Gel & Andrew delos Santos**, and **Tey & Mon Gelvezon**, sister **Carmen Tapia-Alvarez**, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, relatives and friends request for your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie at Capilla de la Virgen, Forbes Park, Makati starting April 23, 2003. Interment will be held on Friday, April 25, 2003, at the Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque, after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at the St. Joseph the Worker Parish, Palanan, Makati.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."
John 3:16

NEMESIO "Tilo" VALENCIA, JR.

Of Tulô, Taal, Batangas

Dean of Graduate Studies, Golden Gate Colleges, Batangas City
Member, Sangguniuang Bayan, Taal, Batangas (1982-1985)
Member of Graduating Class 2003, UE College of Law

Peacefully joined his Creator on April 19, 2003.

His remains lie in state in Barrio Tulô, Taal, Batangas. Interment will be on Sunday, April 27, 2003 in Taal Municipal Cemetery after the 1:00 p.m. Mass in Basilica of St. Martin, Taal.

OUR DEARLY BELOVED PAPA

MARCOS PAULITE SIAT

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord on April 18, 2003 at the age of 64.

He is survived by his wife CONSTANCIA; children and in-laws CHITO & TINA, MILDRED & MARK, MELVIN & TINA.

His remains lie in state at Eric Santiago Memorial Chapel, Bayan-Bayanan Avenue, Concepcion, Marikina City.

Interment will be on Friday, April 25, 2003 at Paraiso Memorial Park, San Mateo after the 1:00 p.m. Mass at Immaculate Conception Church, Concepcion, Marikina City.

ABSALON VALERA TAQUEBAN

Peacefully joined his Creator on April 20, 2003 at the age of 79.

His bereaved wife **JOSEFA**; children and children-in-law **CEASAR & LYN, OLIVE & PABLO, LEILA & RAMON** and **JENNY & ALLAN**; and grandchildren request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul

His remains lie in state at the Arlington Memorial Chapels, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be announced later.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

INQUIRER OBITUARIES

• DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT • MESSAGE OF THANKS • DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS •

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS: ❶ Copy of Death Certificate; ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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What to do when faced with many career options

By Tita Datu Puangco

Advice
FOR THE ANXIOUS PERSON AT WORK

I READ your inspiring article in the Philippine Daily Inquirer last March 12, 2003. I wish to seek some advice on my career path. I have been in and out of jobs due to their contractual nature. Recently, I turned 26 and I began to realize the importance of taking the lead in my career and defining it well.

I am a graduate of AB Sociology from the University of the Philippines, Los Baños. My previous employment experiences were into teaching (STI and Montessori School), research assistant (Letran, Calamba, UPLB and IRRI) and corporate planning assistant. Basically my training was into research and the academe. I am in my second engagement as a consultant. The first was an environmental intervention; the current one is a human resource project-performance evaluation system.

I have set high standards and goals for myself and despite the big breaks I got I still feel the need to move up and expand my field of learning and opportunity. I believe I am highly trainable because, despite the lack of training, I manage to perform on my assigned tasks. Some employers see my lack of training as a liability. I think my previous employers were not able to maximize and utilize my potentials, that's why I keep on moving, hoping that for every job I get into, would satiate my hunger for learning and advancement.

The competition is tough nowadays and I'm afraid I might be left behind by some of my contemporaries. What should I do, what step must I take next? I am interested to get a masters degree maybe an MBA or Organizational Development. Thank you for your time. More power to you!

Hungry For Learning

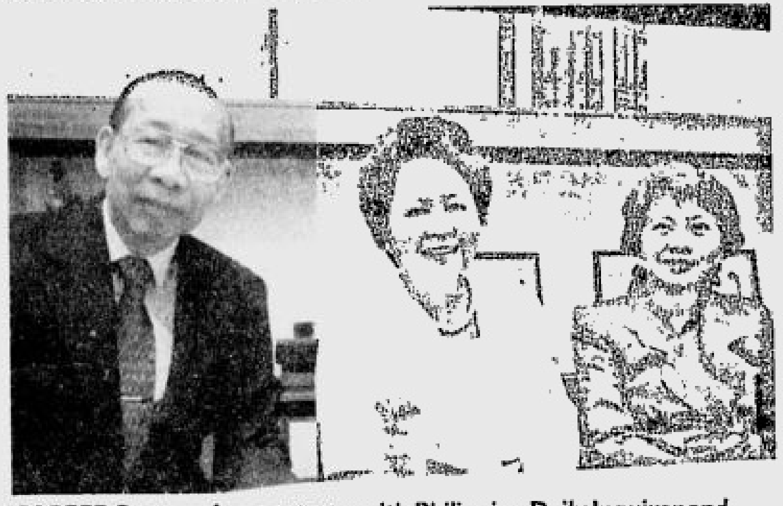
CAREER Systems Inc. partners with Philippine Daily Inquirer and Optimus Managers & Advisors, Inc. to present a special People at Work Live! Seminar Series on May 27, 28 and 29 on "Career Development Strategies" to celebrate Career Systems, Inc.'s 20th anniversary and People at Work section's third anniversary. At the signing were (from left) Career Systems, Inc.'s managing director Jorge Santamaria with senior consultants Gerrie Baricaua and Myra Lapus.

PHOTO BY JESS YUSON

The career path that you have pursued the past five years is typical of this age. Unlike a decade ago when a person is expected to move up in a hierarchical fashion, in a single company, you are gathering learning and experiences across companies. This in fact will be the rule rather than the exception in the coming years.

What I sense you desire is a stable job that will give you roots so you can grow and develop to your full potential. While stable jobs are scarcer today, they still exist. The key is for you to be clear on your vision for yourself. Then, set your career goal.

Numerous choices

Based on your experiences, you have four choices. The fact that you have plenty of choices is causing you confusion. One is a career in the academe. Two is in human resources. Three is in research. Four is in corporate planning. You have to decide what area you want to pursue. Then focus your resume to highlight your accomplishments in the specific field.

From what I know of the job market, the area with the most potential is the area of human resource and organization development. As I move around as a consultant, client companies always ask me for people available in this area. I think you can use your competencies to become a good human resource or organization development officer.

Your knowledge and skills in sociology will come handy in relating to people, teams and organizations. Your research background is excellent in undertaking organizational surveys and studies. Your experience in corporate planning gives you a strategic view of enterprises and organizations.

Pick Me!
Pick Me!
No!
Pick me!
No!
Me!
ILLUSTRATION BY STEPHANIE BRAVO

Need for training

One drawback you mentioned is your lack of training. You can enroll in short courses or public seminars to skill up quickly in human resources and organization development. You can call the Ancilla Business Training Center or the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines for public seminars at reasonable rates. Then, for networking, you can also join the Organization Development Professionals Network. Get in touch with our office and we can give you contact numbers. Then, when you start working in the area, pursue a masters degree in organization development. It is best to pursue a degree when you have actual exposure in the field of study.

Through this column, I invite my friends in the profession to give "Hungry for Learning" an opportunity to pursue a career in human resource and organization development. Based on her letter, she has the competencies, job dimensions and good potential to succeed.

By the way, watch WorkForce that I host on Sundays over Channel 9 at 2 p.m. where we scroll job openings or check PDI's Job Market on Sundays or listen to People at Work sa DZRHon Wednesday at 3:30 p.m.. Given all these resources, you will find the lead to pursue your career goal. Meantime, rest assured that your positive attitude towards learning is clearly an asset.

(Ms Puangco is CEO and president of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting. Send comments, feedback or requests for advice through e-mail to ancillaedc@ pacific.net.ph *or fax to 892-2902.)*

Influential moms change the world of work

WE broke the glass ceiling decades ago. Now, working moms are no longer arguing over the right to get there but rather the right to bring our families along with us.

When women got to the top of the corporate ladder, we sought not the laurels and the trophies that men are content with. Rather we wanted a chance to bring the rest of our family and community with us. We had to have the kind of work arrangement that would allow us work/life balance. Working moms are now changing the workplace, using our influence to make the top a better place.

Women of influence

In this month's issue of Metro Working Mom, we sought out 10 working moms who wield a considerable influence on the way we look at our lives and the way we work. They are all active parents, raising children 18 years old and below, and they are at the top of their field. We looked not only at how they have used their influence, but in particular how they got to where they are.

Influential moms like Loren Legarda, Nina Aguas, Sharon Cuneta, Ces Drilon, Gina Lopez, Tina Maristela-Ocampo, Sandy Prieto Romualdez, Charo Santos, Vicky Belo, and Margie Moran shared their thoughts. We put these together to create a formula of sorts, a checklist if you will, of factors that could propel you to the top of your field while staying balanced.

WORKING MOM
An Mercado Alcantara

Checklist

You must love your work. If going to work for you is just a means to pay the bills, than you won't have the energy nor the desire to wield your influence. Instead, you would be foot dragging and not getting the best out of your work, the sense of fulfillment, the affirmation to give back to your family. You can't talk about balance without discerning if what you're doing is really what you want to do.

You must nourish your spirit. All the working moms we talked to managed to squeeze in some time to take care of their inner self. We cannot be enthusiastic if we are exhausted. We cannot be compassionate if we are cruel to ourselves. We cannot be inspiring if we are empty. You must set aside time to recharge and rekindle your spirit.

You must have clear goals and priorities. Unless your life has focus, then you will be a loose cannon: throwing your energies in all directions without achieving anything. Having a goal gives you a sense of mission.

Try to see solutions were other people see only problems. This is what separates the leaders from the followers. You don't stop at the knot, you buckle down and see how you can get out of it. Apply this to your work life. When everyone is stumped over a problem, be the one to explore options. Your influence will be felt immediately.

Game plan

You must be willing to ask for help. We can't be superwomen and pretend that we know everything. If we resist asking for help, we limit what we can do to what only one person can do. Imagine the power you can harness if you learn to delegate, learn to seek answers from others. Never stop at *"hindi ko kaya ito."* Ask for help to get it done.

You must take risks. Influencing others and making changes in the way people do things requires a venturing out of your comfort zone. You must be willing to take a stand, be willing to do the unpopular thing if it means standing up for what you believe. Look to long and you'll never leap.

Never give up. Every great leader stumbles, but it's the getting up that counts. So, your proposal got rejected. Grieve a little bit, then hold yourself together and think up of a new plan. Resist the temptation to sulk and drop out of the game. Redefine the game and get back on track.

(An Mercado Alcantara is editor-in-chief of Metro Working Mom published by ABS-CBN Publishing. For more tips, get a copy of this month's issue with Tina Maristela-Ocampo on the cover. You may reach her at rmwm_abscbn@skyinet.net*)*

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PEOPLE at WORK

Editor **Raul O. Marcelo** ◎ *Subsection Editor* **Regina Galang Reyes**

Successful corporate exec takes charge of own 'career system'

SANTAMARIA, managing director of Career Systems, Inc.

PHOTO BY JESS YUSON

By Cecile G. Garcia

CAREER TALES

SWITCHING careers enabled Jorge G. Santamaria to take charge of his own 'career system.'

A corporate man all his life, he was vice president for the business division of Bristol Myers Phils. and, at the same time, director for business development of Bristol Laboratories and Mead Johnson, when Santamaria decided to opt for early retirement in 1983. "I felt I had reached a dead-end in my job," he says. In 1985, he joined Career Systems, Inc., a company his wife Josie had formed two years earlier. "The company was struggling and my wife was deep into it. She needed help," says Santamaria.

Today, Santamaria is managing director of Career Systems, Inc. (CSI), the leading career development consultancy firm in the country, which celebrates its 20 years in the service on April 25.

Marketing role

Initially, he took care of the business aspect, handling the marketing for Careers Systems, Inc. (CSI). In time, however, his responsibility expanded and he began getting involved in designing programs with Josie and the rest of the consultants. "In marketing, I've been very effective in bringing clients from the pharmaceutical industry, which I was a part of for 23 years," says Santamaria. "In a way, I've always felt that I owe it to the industry to give back what I have learned."

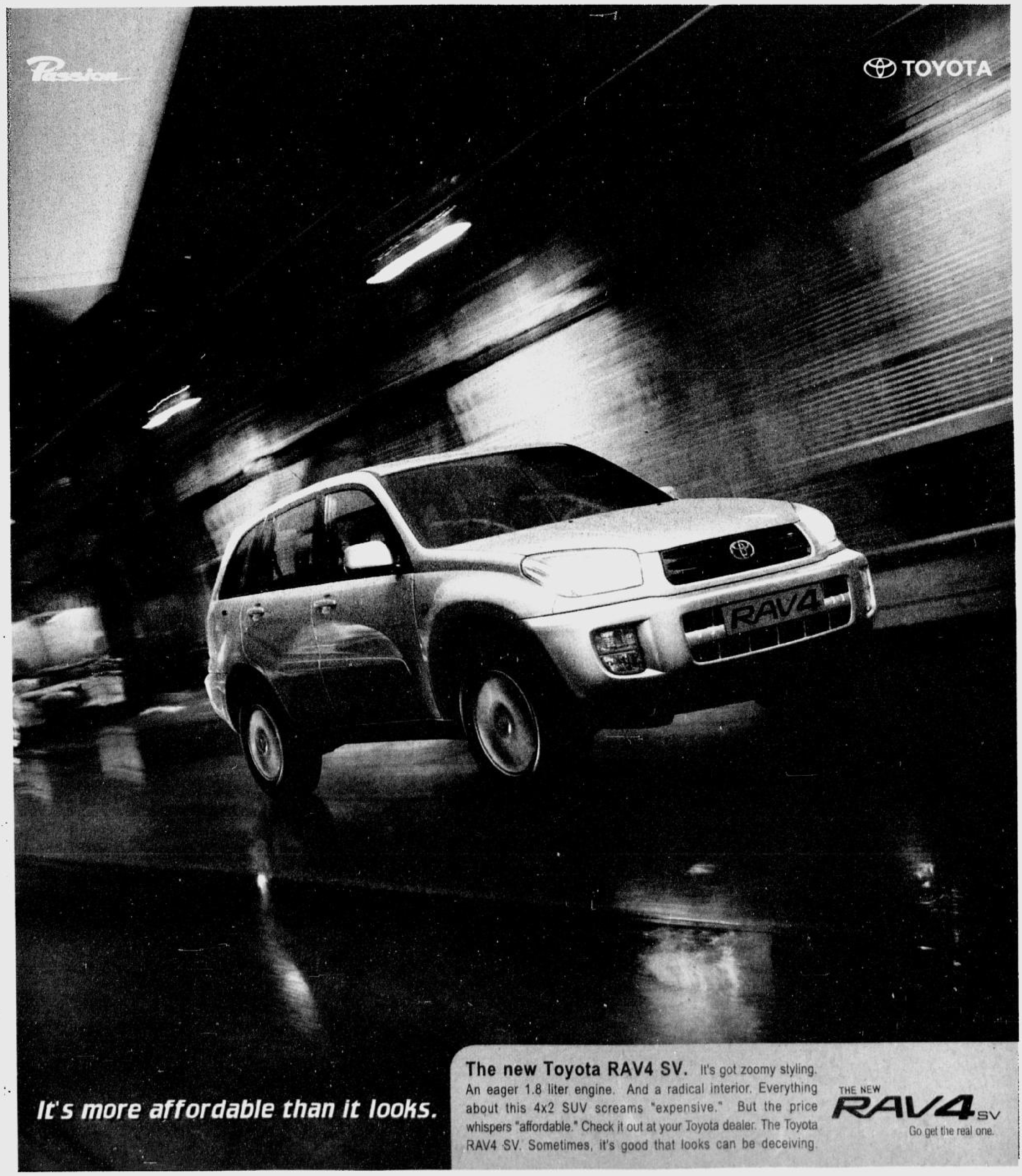
Santamaria spearheaded the development of a course or program specially designed for pharmaceutical companies. "My wife and I did this together," he says. "It had been so effective that a number of these companies continue to use it. It could well be my legacy to CSI and to my former colleagues in the pharmaceutical industry."

Career success

Sixty-eight-year-old Santamaria started his career working as a medical representative for Mead Johnson in 1961. He rose to become supervisor, then regional field manager and sales manager in 1971. His career plan, according to Santamaria, was focused on getting to the top. "But my promotions came faster than I expected. I did not foresee the company's growth. In 1974, he became marketing manager for pharmaceuticals.

Clearly, his career plan had gone undeterred. Santamaria learned one hard lesson along the

SUCCESSFUL/B0



The new Toyota RAV4 SV. It's got zoomy styling. An eager 1.8 liter engine. And a radical interior. Everything about this 4x2 SUV screams "expensive." But the price whispers "affordable." Check it out at your Toyota dealer. The Toyota RAV4 SV. Sometimes, it's good that looks can be deceiving.

For feedback, text us at (0919)880-33-54 or email us at pr_lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph
LIFESTYLE
Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso** *Chief of Correspondents* **Pam Pastor**

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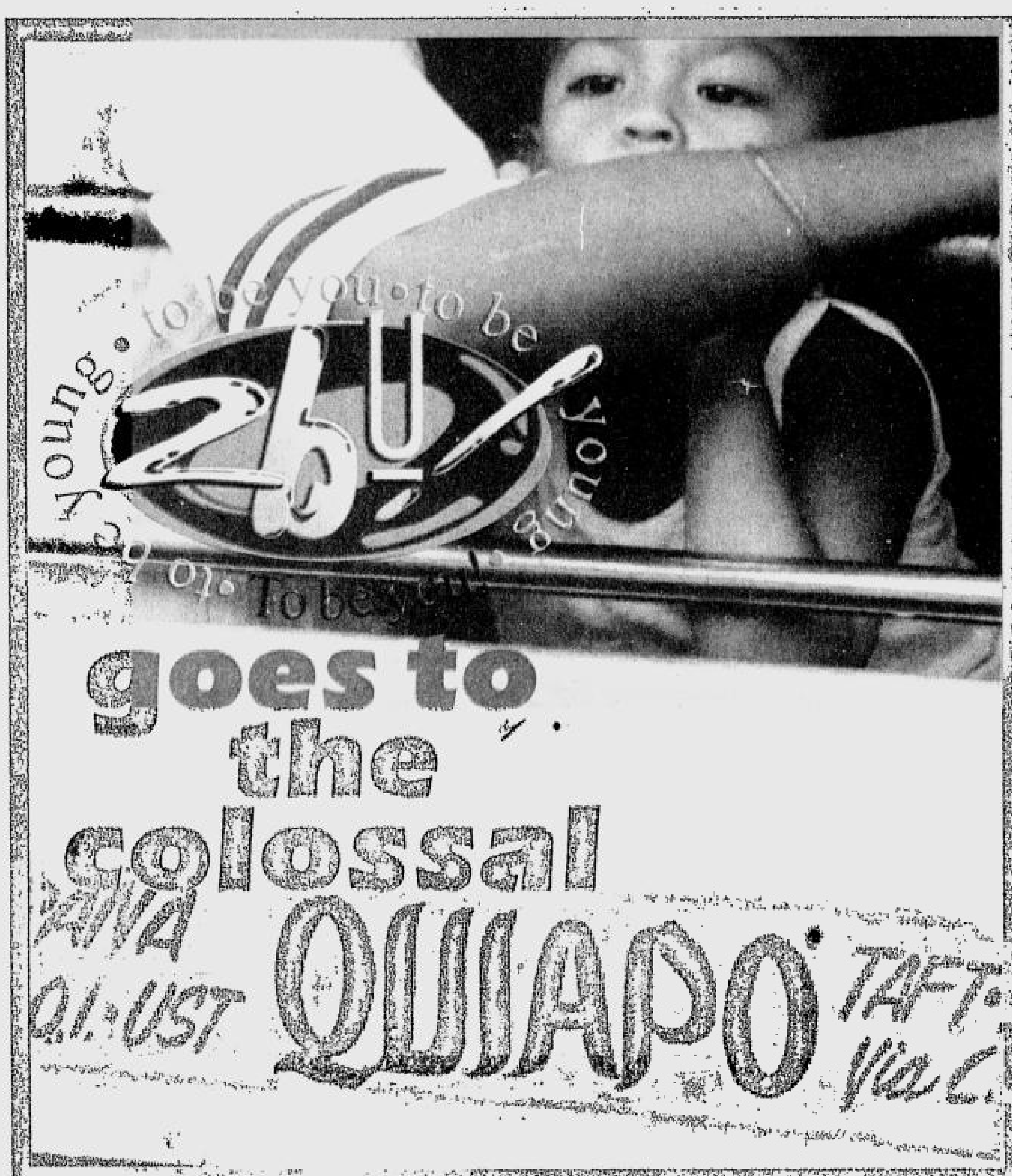
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goes to the colossal QUIAPO

QUIAPO is a circus—all kinds of characters pull tricks for attention and survival.

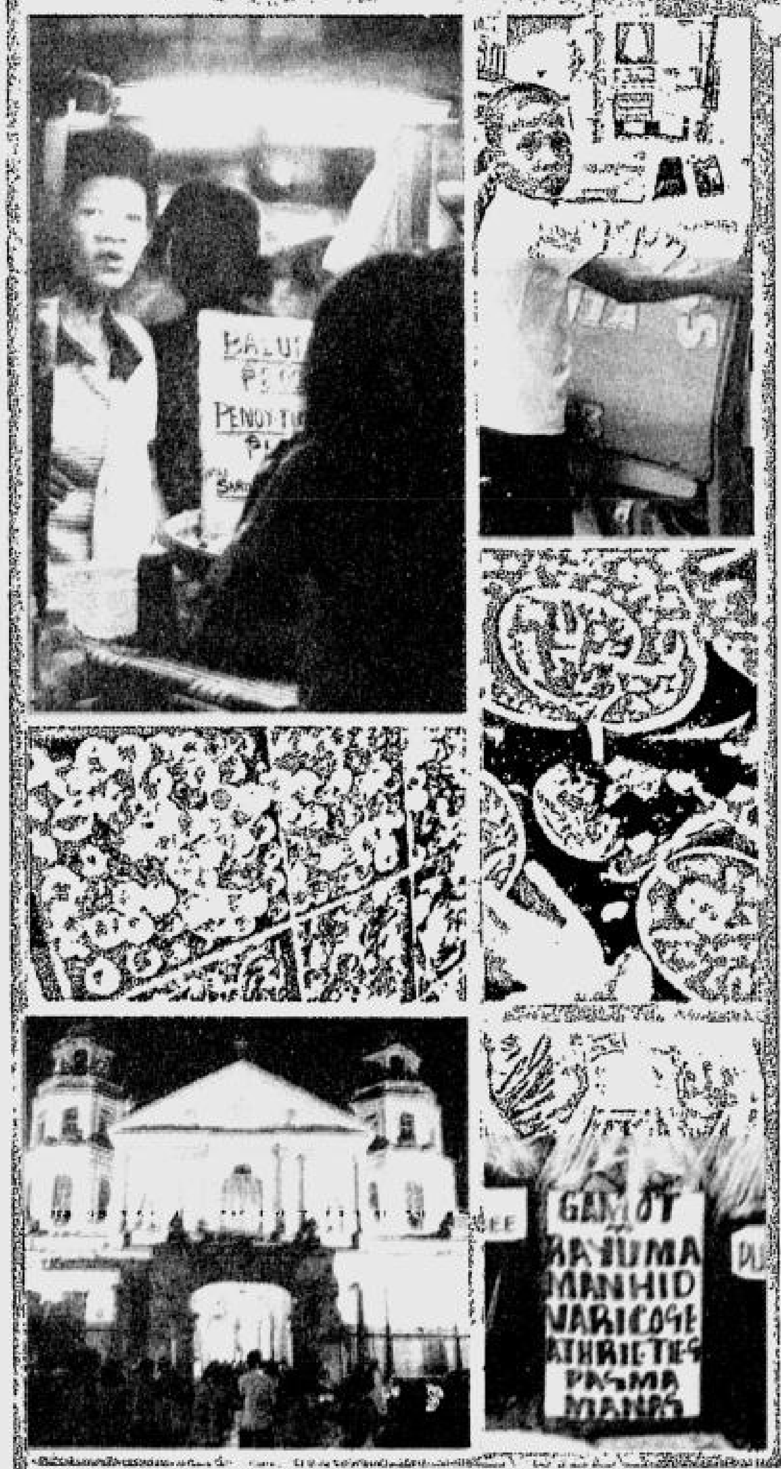
Quiapo is a book of fairy tales—hidden behind the jaded eyes of locals are stories waiting to be told at any given chance.

Quiapo is cinema—drama unfolds everyday in every way.

Quiapo is magic—humans deem themselves prophets, goddesses and wizards; stones and dead animals have power.

Quiapo is a contradiction—the holy mingle with the worldly, the rich rub elbows with the poor, peace and chaos find a common ground.

Ultimately, Quiapo is putty—it is everything you make it.



PHOTOS: MIKE ALQUINTO

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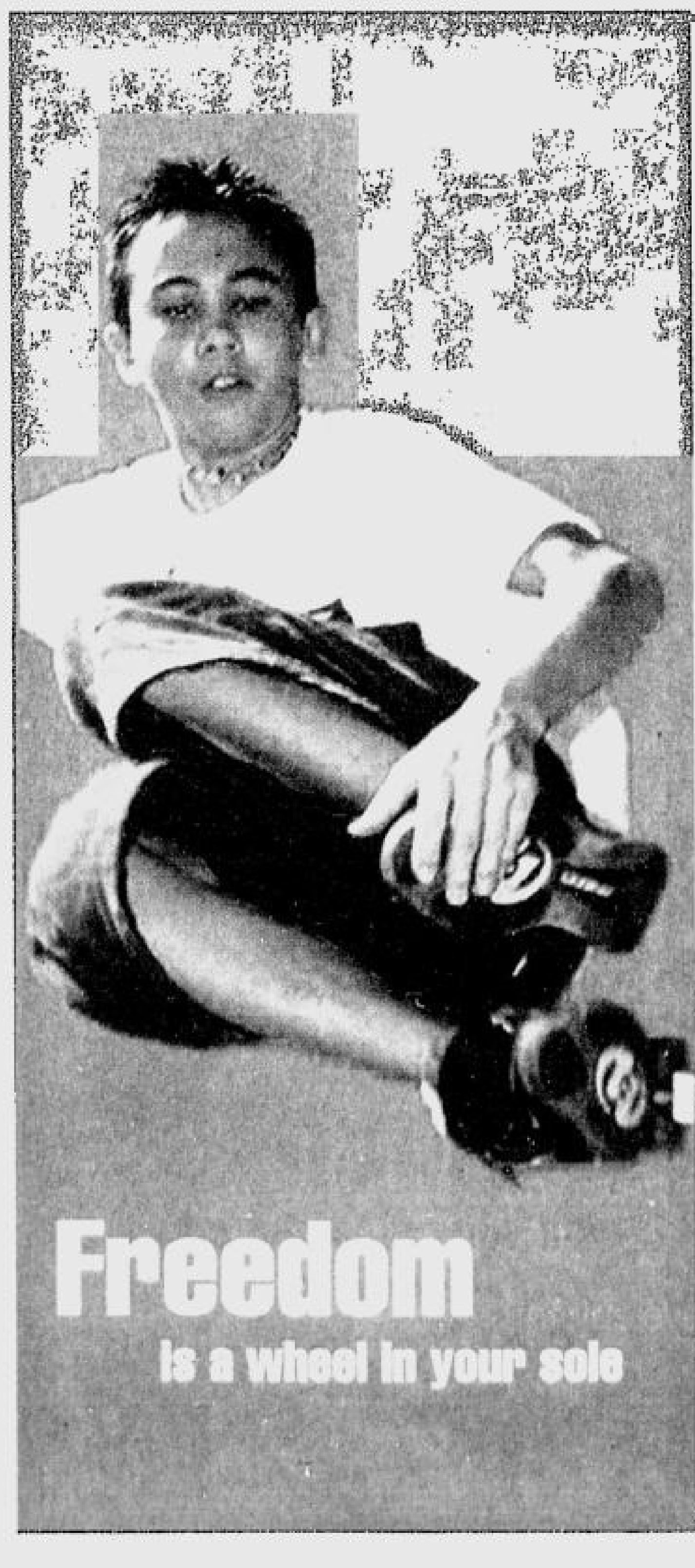
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INSENSO. (yellow rock) "Pampausok." This yellow mineral supposedly has the power to drive away evil spirits.

BALAT ng banaba, balat ng duhat. The Quiapo cart's answer to paracetamol. These leaves can help cure fever.

GUGO. Herbal shampoo

PAMPA REGLA
PAMPA REGLA
REGLA
PAMPA REGLA

KRUS. One must fill the bottle with oil. This is used as a charm against witchcraft.

SECOMORO. Takes care of numbness

GAMOT sa KULAM BALIS BARANG BATH USUG
EL SHADDAI MENTHOL OIL

ANISADO (red liquid). The answer to hyperacidity

CHINESE CANDLES. They bring luck.

KONTRA-USOG BRACELETS. Worn by babies to keep danger and evil away

A Quiapo cart dissected

Text by Pam Pastor
Photos by Mike Alquinto

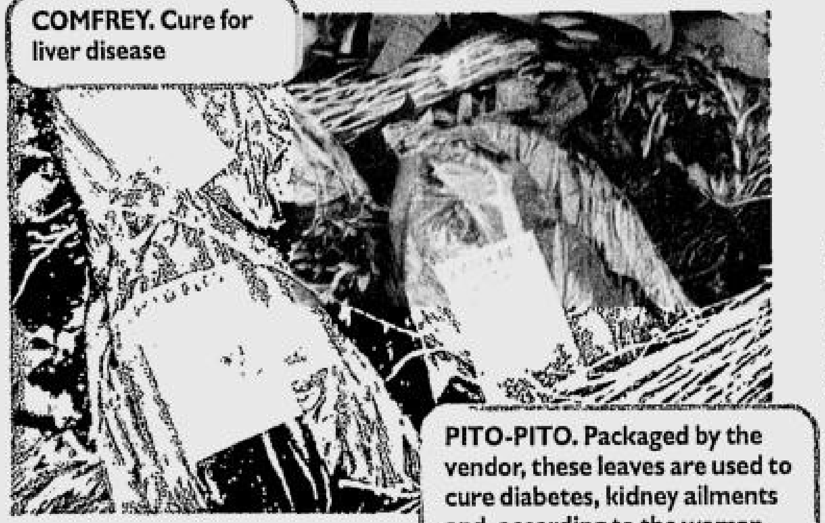
THE QUIAPO cart is a curious sight. "Pamparegla," "pampagana," "pampapayat," these words scream from the labels of bottles filled with what looks like thick syrup. But the bottles take up only a small space of the cart. It is piled high with jars of all sizes, leaves, rocks, beads and minerals—all of which supposedly answer different human needs.

The lady who mans the cart deems herself a pharmacist of sorts. Her merchandise can heal anything, she says. She even uses them on herself.

She, like the other women who spend their days taking care of these carts, will summon you over if you give them as much as a glance.

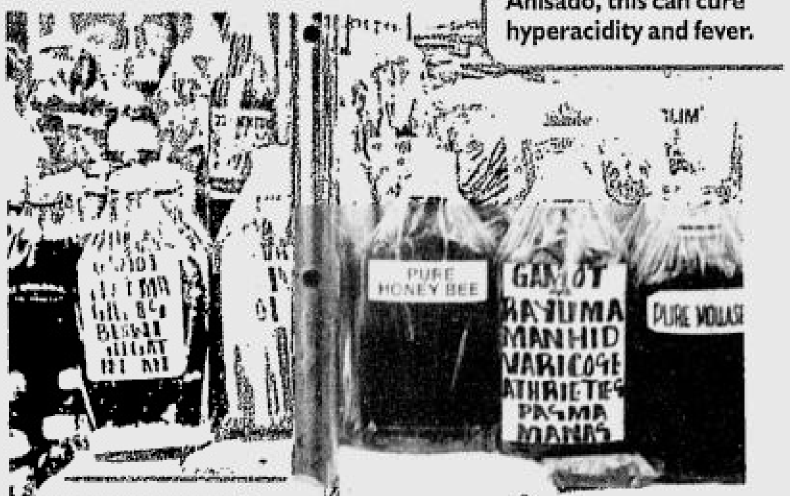
2bU! takes a closer look at their wares.

The bestsellers? Oil, insenso and boxes of slimming teas. Whether they actually work or not is a different story.



COMFREY. Cure for liver disease

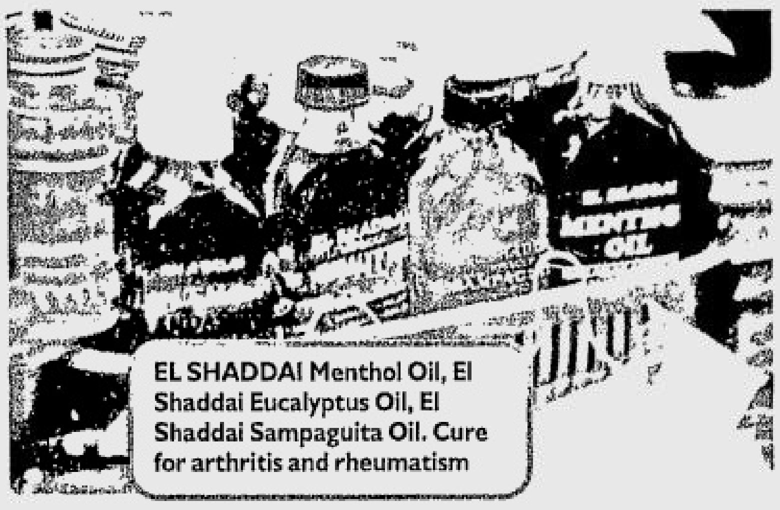
PITO-PITO. Packaged by the vendor, these leaves are used to cure diabetes, kidney ailments and, according to the woman, may also increase one's appetite for food.



SIOKTONG. Just like Anisado, this can cure hyperacidity and fever.

FO-TI-TIENG. An aphrodisiac of sorts

PETER KREM. Their answer to Viagra.



EL SHADDAI Menthol Oil, El Shaddai Eucalyptus Oil, El Shaddai Sampaguita Oil. Cure for arthritis and rheumatism

MAHOGANY SEEDS. Popped like tablets, these chips are for the diabetic.

OIL. People use it to moisturize dry skin.

PURE HONEY BEE
PURO COCONUT OIL

Enchanting, enchanted Quiapo

Text by Pam Pastor
Photos by Mike Alquinto

THE OLD woman sat on a stool, surrounded by colorful stones, glass beads, little bottles and bits of wood. She didn't look like a wizard or an enchantress, more like someone's grandmother. But with the way she rattled off the supposed powers of her wares, one would think real magic existed in this world.

I held up a clear ball that fit perfectly in the palm of my hand. "Crystal ball," she said to me, her eyes squinting in the afternoon sunlight. "Wishing stone *din 'yan. Makikita mo diyan ang hihilingin mo.*"

Crystal balls, lucky charms, a seahorse or two—you can find them on Evangelista Street, Quiapo's answer to 'Harry Potter's' Diagon Alley

She called the wooden chip "*sinag-araw*." She said that apart from being a lucky charm, it could get rid of envy and fight off people with evil intentions.

What looked like a shriveled bone was actually a seahorse. When boiled and drank, the old woman said the sea creature "can cure asthma." Python heads can cure stomachaches, she added.

The hopelessly in love may soon find themselves trooping over to Quiapo to buy love potions. This form of "gayuma" comes in tiny bottles. You're supposed to write your beloved's name on a piece of paper and slip it inside the bottle. Pretty soon—if you can actually believe this—the object of your obsession will constantly be thinking of you and will be at your beck and call.

"*Manang, gayuma po ito?*" a passerby with a toothy grin asked.

"*Oo, para mapasaiyo ang gusto mo,*" the old woman answered in her raspy voice.

"*Paano po kung pangalan ni* Ara Mina *ang ilagay ko dito?*" the joker asked. The old woman ignored him.

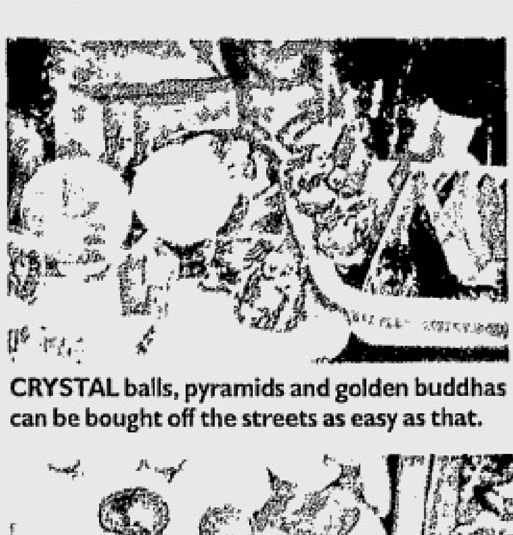
The gold bands hanging on one side of the stall are cures for rheumatism and numbness. There are amulets of all designs and purposes.

The pyramids bring luck, she said. So do the colorful stones. If it's prosperity in business that one seeks, the Mutya ng Dayap is the answer. "Agetch na bato," according to the woman, brings fortune to one's livelihood. The triangular blue stones offer protection against your enemies. The red one, which is called the "love stone," fights off envy and makes people like you.

"Buntot pagi" is an antidote for the effects of witchcraft. Bullets worn around the neck, along with other kinds of accessories adorning the stall, fight off the ill intentions of people.

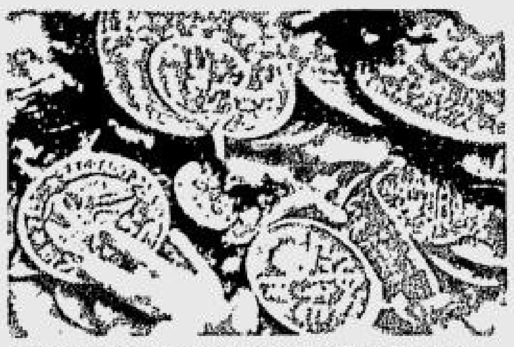
Prices start at P25 to hundreds of pesos (mostly for the semiprecious stones and huge crystals).

The answers to all your problems in one stall for a few measly bucks! Now if they actually worked, wouldn't that make life much easier?

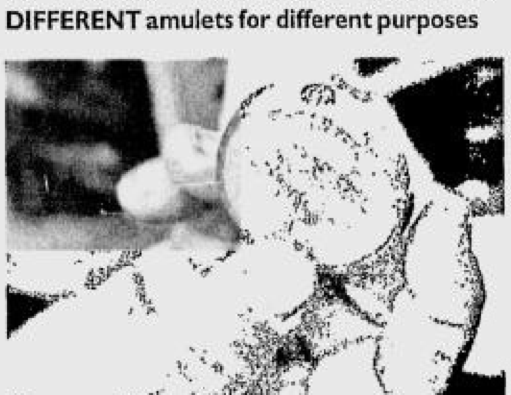


CRYSTAL balls, pyramids and golden buddhas can be bought off the streets as easy as that.

ALL THE LUCK IN THE WORLD. These stones will bring you fortune, if you believe enough.



DIFFERENT amulets for different purposes



ANTI-EVIL. The Sinag-araw fights off people with bad intentions.

QUIAPO WIZARD. She believes in the immense powers of her wares.

THIS semi-precious stone will bring you luck for P350.

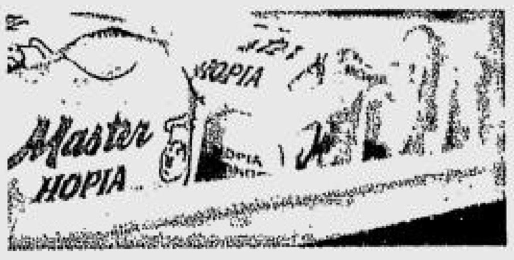
SABRINA wouldn't like this. Buntot pagi is an antidote to witchcraft.

Quiapo *food trip*

Text by Pam Pastor
Photos by Mike Alquinto

DIFFERENT people offered different suggestions. We gave them all a shot.

HOPIA like it!

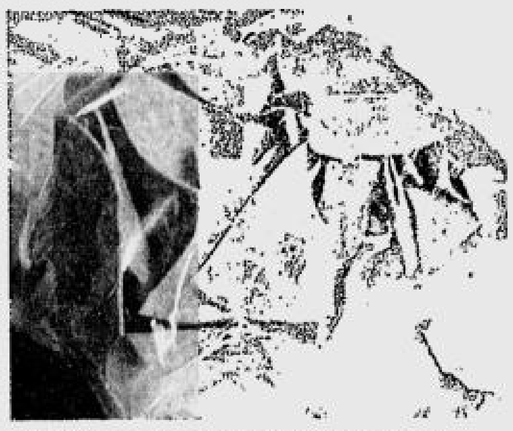


What they said: Master Hopia has the best *hopia* in Quiapo.

Master Hopia in Villalobos Street corner Echague Street is home to what a lot of people call "the best *hopia*," among other things. One *hopia* goes for P5. We tried the *monggo* variety.

Our verdict: This *hopia*'s texture is smooth, the flavors are subtle. It goes down easily. We don't have enough *hopia* authority to proclaim it as the best, but we're sure it comes close.

What they said: You can buy huge bags of nacho chips from Quinta market for less than a hundred.



A BAG of nachos for P26? Not bad at all

We explored Quinta market with gusto, keeping our eyes open for huge bags of nacho chips. We saw slabs of meat, PX goods, bars of soap, but no huge bags of chips. Two market vendors pointed us over to Killion Trading on Orosco Street. The walls are lined with baking supplies and other goodies and yes, they had nacho chips.

Our verdict: The bag wasn't huge, but at P26 for the chips and P10 for the cheese sauce, it beats what most supermarkets and malls have to offer.

We also visited the store selling Excelente Cooked Ham on Palanca Street. People flock towards this store especially around the holidays to buy ham for Noche Buena. Just outside Excelente, I was able to buy large century eggs for only P12. They were heavenly.

People will not go hungry in Quiapo. Apart from the numerous fast food chain branches sandwiched between stores selling all sorts of merchandise, you can find carts and carts of street food and stalls selling rice cakes and native delicacies. Some people go around with baskets selling homemade goodies for those brave enough to buy. There are fruit stands and vegetable stands and carts that sell softdrinks by the cup.

And when you are tired from walking around, when the sensual overload exhausts you and when the Quiapo heat finally gets to you, almost everything seems delicious.

***

E-mail the author at ppastor@inquirer.com.ph.

CENTURY
Eggs
12.00

FEAR Factor—not. These century eggs are heavenly

Excelente
COOKED HAM

NOT just for Christmas

THE P20 pancit palabok

AFTER Mass delight. Church goers go to J Canteen to enjoy pancit malabon

What they said: J Canteen proffers the best pancit in Quiapo.

J Canteen on P. Paterno St. has been serving what has been tagged as "the best pancit in Quiapo" for eight years now. People have been known to head straight to this hole-in-the-wall right after attending Mass at Quiapo Church. A plateful of *pancit palabok* costs P20 while *pancit malabon* is a little more pricey at P30. The noodles are loaded with toppings and generously sprinkled with sinful *chicharon*.

Our verdict: It's pretty darn good. The serving is a little small if your appetite is huge or if you're extra hungry. We figured two orders would be enough to hit the spot. And at such low price, how can you go wrong with that?

What they said: Globe (no, not the telecom) sells the best *lumpia* in Quiapo.

"*Parang hindi ka pa nakapunta sa Quiapo kung hindi ka pa kumain dito,*" Gil Nartea, a photojournalism professor at the University of the Philippines, said as we watched the man behind the glass counter whip up *lumpia* after *lumpia*. Globe Lumpia, found in Quiapo's Raon Street has been around for 46 years now. That Thursday afternoon, happy patrons kept ordering fresh *lumpia*, made especially to suit their tastes (no garlic, extra garlic). Others walked in and left with their *lumpia* in brown bags. Each order costs only P16.

Our verdict: Each bite of *lumpia* is an explosion of different flavors that come together for an exhilarating experience of the palate. It's good, really good. Even my grandma agrees.

THE MAKING of a Globe lumpia

Quiapo has something for everyone

CAMERAS for those who want to capture the art of life with their lens.

If you...

are fashion conscious, you will enjoy shopping in Quiapo (see related article). There are thrift finds and imported goods, junk that you can turn into treasure by mixing and matching, and gorgeous, gorgeous finds if you know how and where to look. One of the best things about Quiapo? You can always haggle your way to the price you want.

are sporty and athletic, there are a lot of sports stores along Evangelista street that sell everything from punching bags and balls of all kinds to medals and trophies.

are a musician, you can find musical instruments at low prices on Evangelista St., too. (In fact, a lot of shops double as music and sports stores.) My brother was able to buy his bongos from one of the stores without spending too much.

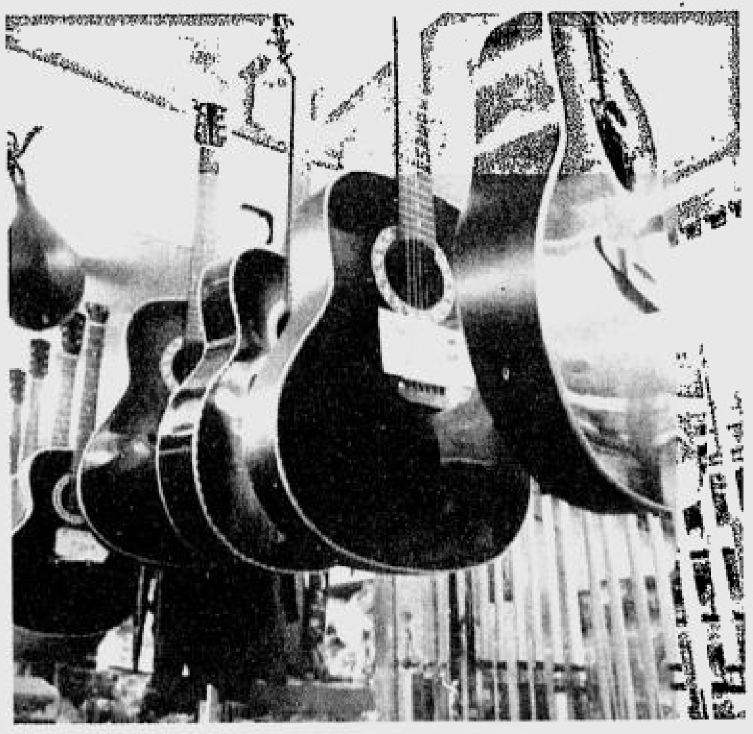
are a techie geek, there are shops selling gadgets and computer accessories for next to nothing. You have to know your stuff, though, lest you are duped into buying something that doesn't work. You can also buy blank CDs at low prices for all your burning needs.

are a food lover, Quiapo is home to all kinds of adventures for your palate. (See related article.)

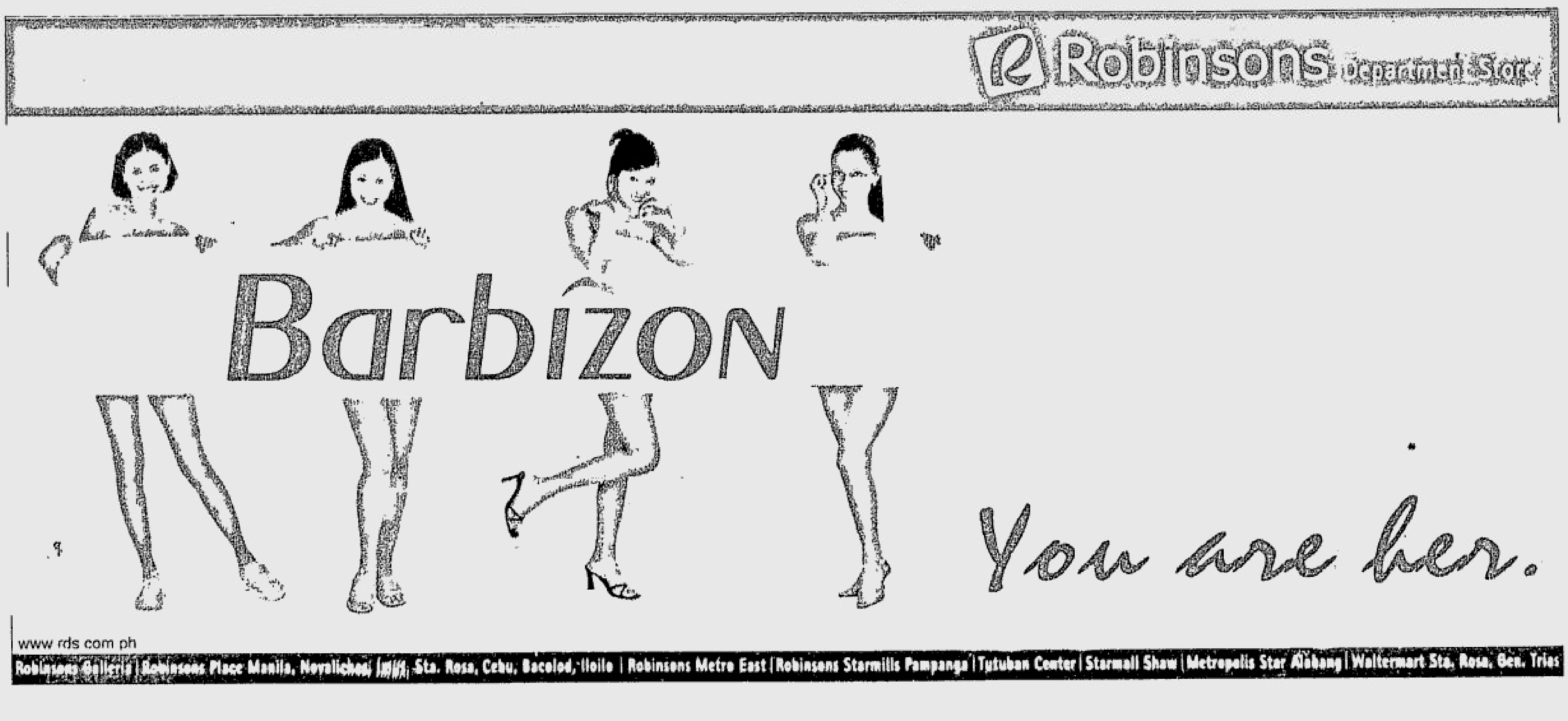
are adventurous, danger seems always imminent in Quiapo, if you allow yourself to feel it. Remember that like any other place in the world, Quiapo can be as boring or as exciting as you make it.

are an artist, Quiapo may just provide the inspiration you are looking for. It will feed your senses to overflowing. There is always something to see, always something to experience in Quiapo, as long as you keep your eyes open.

Pam Pastor



THESE GUITARS are waiting to be strummed.



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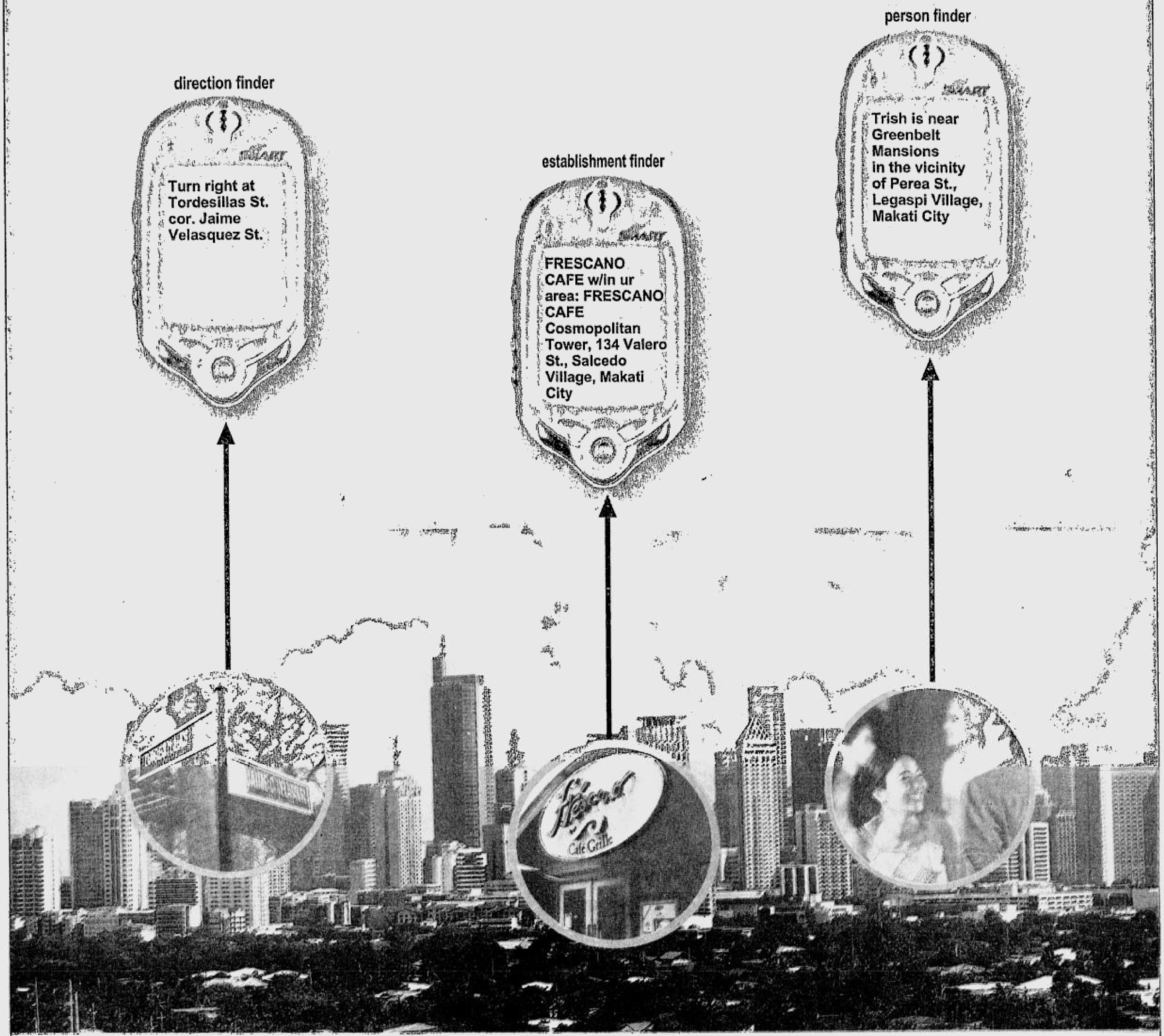

Turn right at Tordesillas St. cor. Jaime Velasquez St.

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Trish is near Greenbelt Mansions in the vicinity of Perea St., Legaspi Village, Makati City

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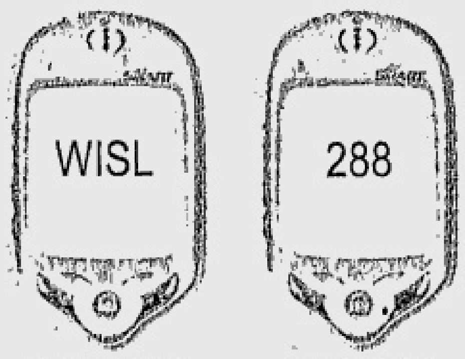

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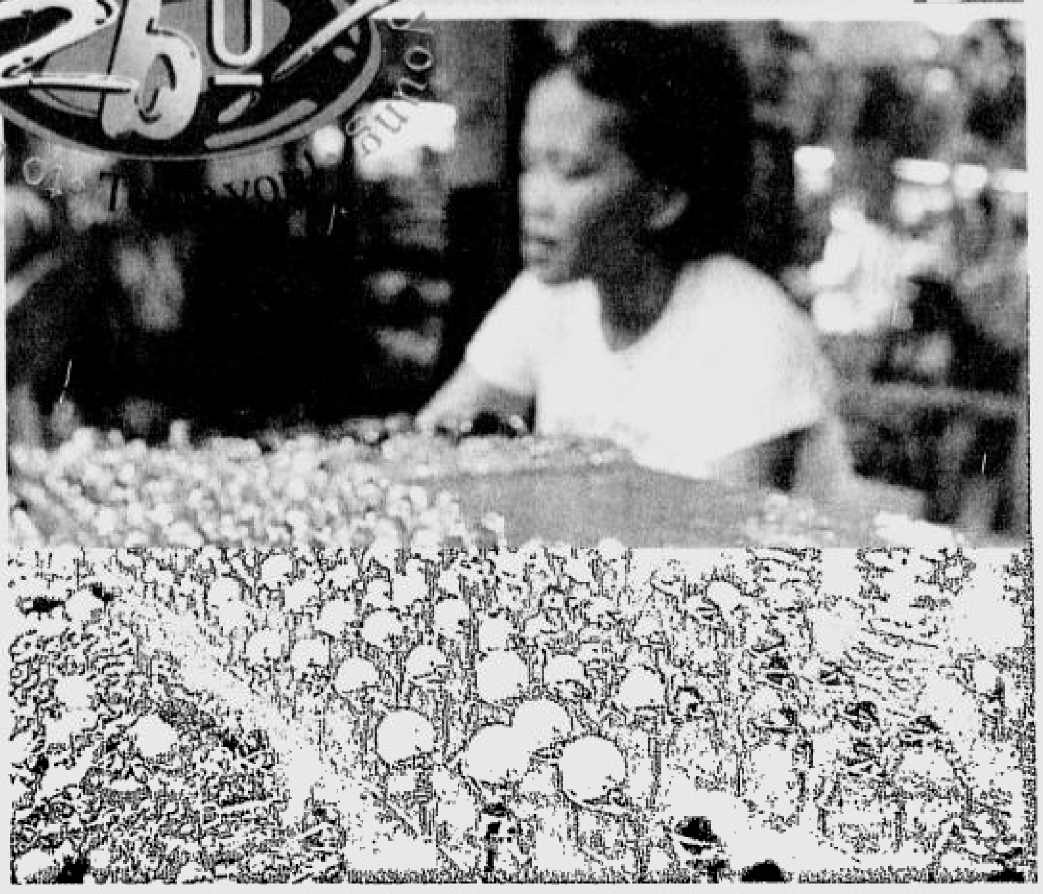
LIFESTYLE

Quenching a *fashionista's* thirst in Quiapo

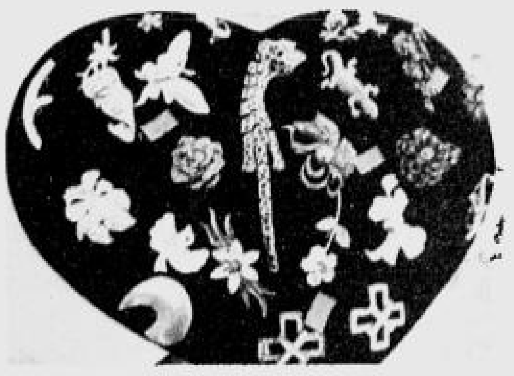

LADY OF THE RINGS. These accessories are a catch at P10 each.

Text by Jason Doplito
2bU! Correspondent
Photos by Mike Alquinto

WHO goes to Quiapo for the malls? Apparently, a good number of Filipinos. But despite the presence of shopping mall conglomerate ShoeMart in this district, more opt for the open-air *bangketa* and *tiangge* stalls. No wonder people are spilling all over the streets here. If you think that only a beleaguered teenage would-be mother can enjoy the goods of Quiapo, you might be in for a teeny shock. You can actually satisfy your fashionista cravings in Quiapo, and skip overcrowded Divisoria in the process.

First, dismiss any silly rumors about the presence of SARS in *ukay-ukays*. The bacteria couldn't have possibly survived the long trip from China to our country, and the heavy traffic from the pier to Quiapo. Having done that, head on to Ramon Hidalgo Street, which is to the left of the Nazarene Church, and scour the long line of clothes being sold for only P35. Anything greater than that will qualify under "expensive."

Initially, you'll probably not even touch the clothes because the act lacks glamour, but there really are some good finds. You have to carefully inspect the clothes though, because they are, after all, used items. There might be holes in them that you cannot fix anymore. Here you can also buy funky socks in crazy and colorful themes priced at P35.



Brand-new items

The other side, Carriedo Street, offers brand-new clothing with more options for men, too. They have black shirts with drawings of the more popular rock bands and hip-hop artists, but they come in extra-large sizes so it might be better to leave them to the followers of the grunge look. What are nicer though are the underwear, also along the same area. Although you're better off wearing them only if you are sure no one sees them for they loudly scream "fake" once the garter shows off the Polo, Calvin Klein and Bench labels. Ladies will also have a grand time shopping for lingerie with cute cartoon prints. All items are not more than P100.

Back-to-school shopping

Before you reach the LRT, make a right turn

QUENCHING/ D2

QUIAPO'S own woman of cloth.

summer shades and strokes

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Lip Gloss & Eyeshadow

SUE DEVITT STUDIO
SMASHBOX
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LINDA CANTELLO
TONY & TINA
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EARTH THERAPEUTICS
NATUROPATHICA
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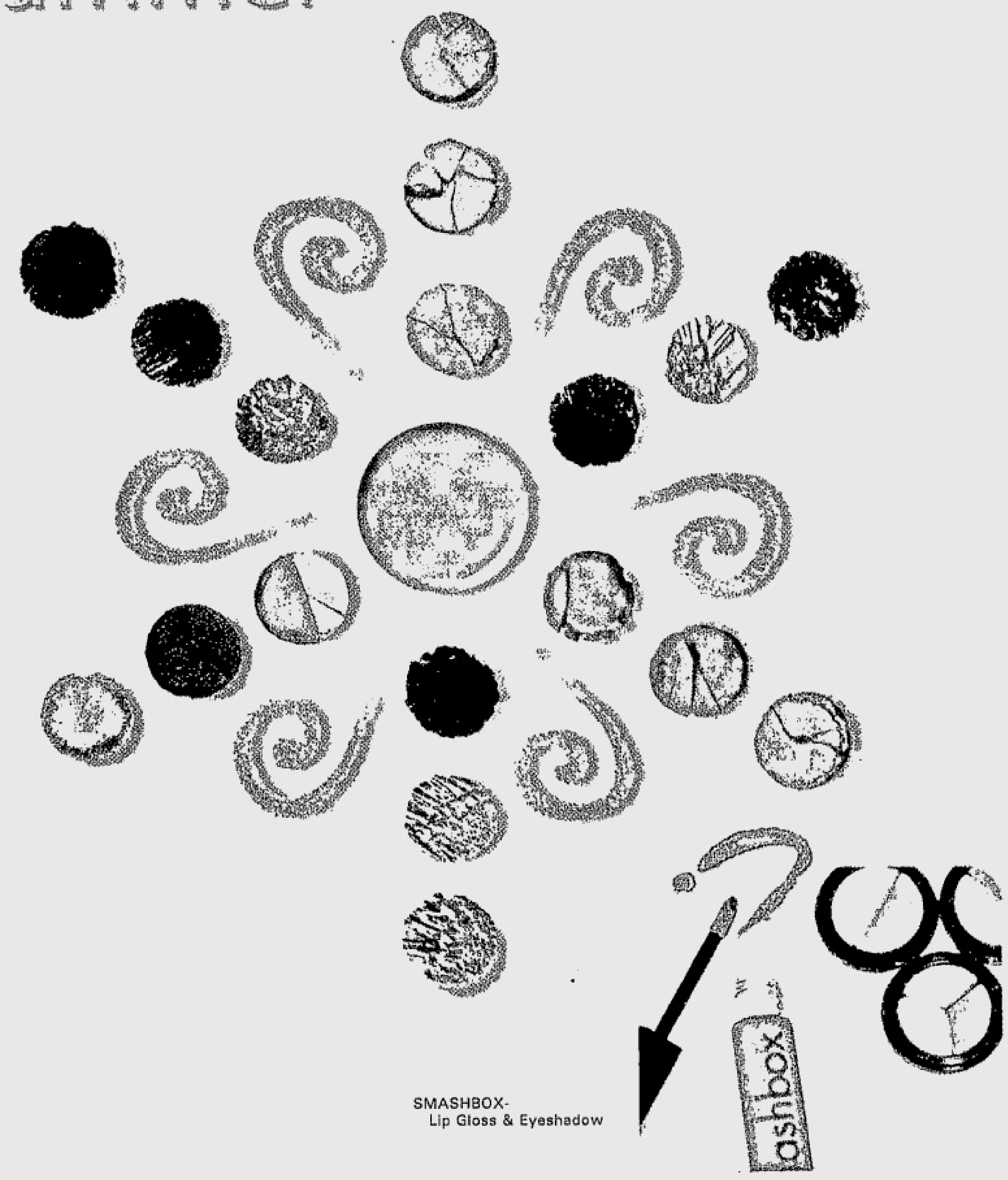


Quenching a *fashionista's* thirst in Quiapo

IT'S raining bra! It comes in all sizes.

From page D1

to Platerias Street and start your back-to-school shopping. A wide array of backpacks under the popular brands of Jansport, Adidas and Puma make good "American Idols" of the originals. Aside from school bags, they also have traveling and mountaineering bags, which go from large to extra large. Before you buy them, try to stretch the bags' stitching to make sure they are not easily ripped apart. Then pray they really do not rip apart once you put your things in them.

Fine accessories

Go back to Carriedo Street and walk towards the Nazarene Church. At the end of the said street, you'll find Lotta Marketing Corporation, a shop that probably sells the best ladies' accessories in the whole of Quiapo. It's an air-conditioned shop but that shouldn't intimidate you as the prices are still Quiapo-friendly. With most of the jewelry imported from Korea, the shop is also perhaps the trendiest. Here you'll find necklaces (P120), bracelets (P80), earrings (P40-P120) and beads to gratify the fashion accessory monster in you. From simple pearls to flashy accessories, they are sure to match your taste anytime.

Along the sidewalk of this street, or bangketa, are even more affordable accessories. You'll have to look down to find a little boy and a woman selling dainty bracelets and rings that won't be loud enough for little girls. They were right in front of the Plaza Miranda Mall two weeks ago. And speaking of malls, there are a couple of other department stores that you can go to for more low-priced shopping. The Manila City Plaza has a gigantic collection of mobile accessories, from cases to pendants to personalize your cell phones. At the Plaza Miranda Mall, you can find watches and shades (P10) to spruce up your ordinary get-up.

If you are looking for formal Filipino wear, La Manileña (Palanca Street) and Maning's Lace Corporation (Evangelista Street) are dealers of all kinds of *barong*, wedding gowns, baptismal dresses and other native products. But if you want more Filipino souvenir items, walk north from the front of the Nazarene Church, where the Quiapo Bridge is, and under that you'll find more of them.

TWO ladies gun for the *ukay-ukay* shirts.

JUNE'S not too far away to shop for these schoolbags.

"TRY ME." If the slippers fit, they're yours for P35.

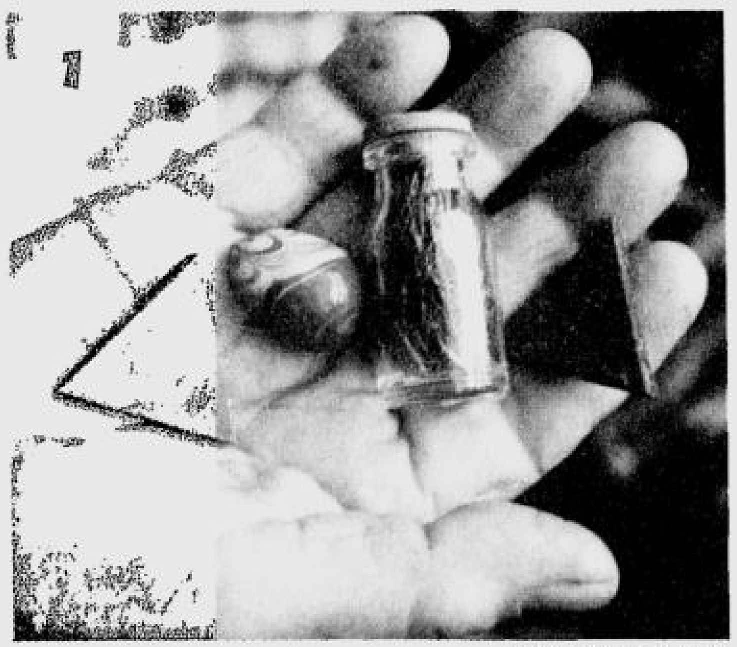
NO, this is not your neighbor's newly washed undies.

GOING GLAM. At Lotta's you'll find jewelry for every occasion.

SPREAD 'EM. *Manang* does some leopard stretching.

Now it'll be crazy to enumerate the other finds that we discovered in Quiapo. You have to find out for yourself where the buzz is because that's half the fun. The other half is discovering you can get stuff for much less than what you'll pay in upscale department stores.

1


PHOTOS BY MIKE ALQUINTO

2BU! PROMO

Quiapo quest

1 Think you need a little magic in your life? Tell us why in 50 words or less. E-mail contest2bU@inquirer.com.ph with "I need magic" as subject. If you're lucky—or if we really really like your answer—we'll give you a set of charms. Heck, we'll even throw in a love potion or two. Don't forget your name, age, school/office and contact information.

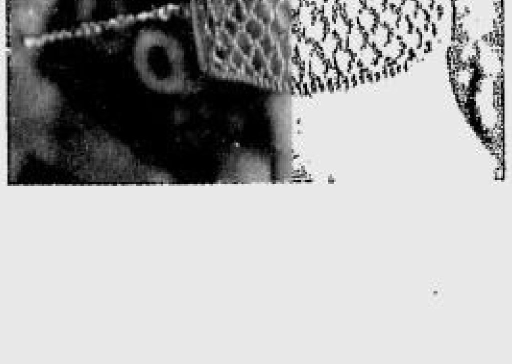
2 Sure, these tops will look fab on you. Tell us what you'll wear them with by e-mailing us at contest2bu@inquirer.com.ph with "I want those tops" as subject and we might just give them to you. We'll even add crazy socks to the package. Don't forget your personal info and contact details.

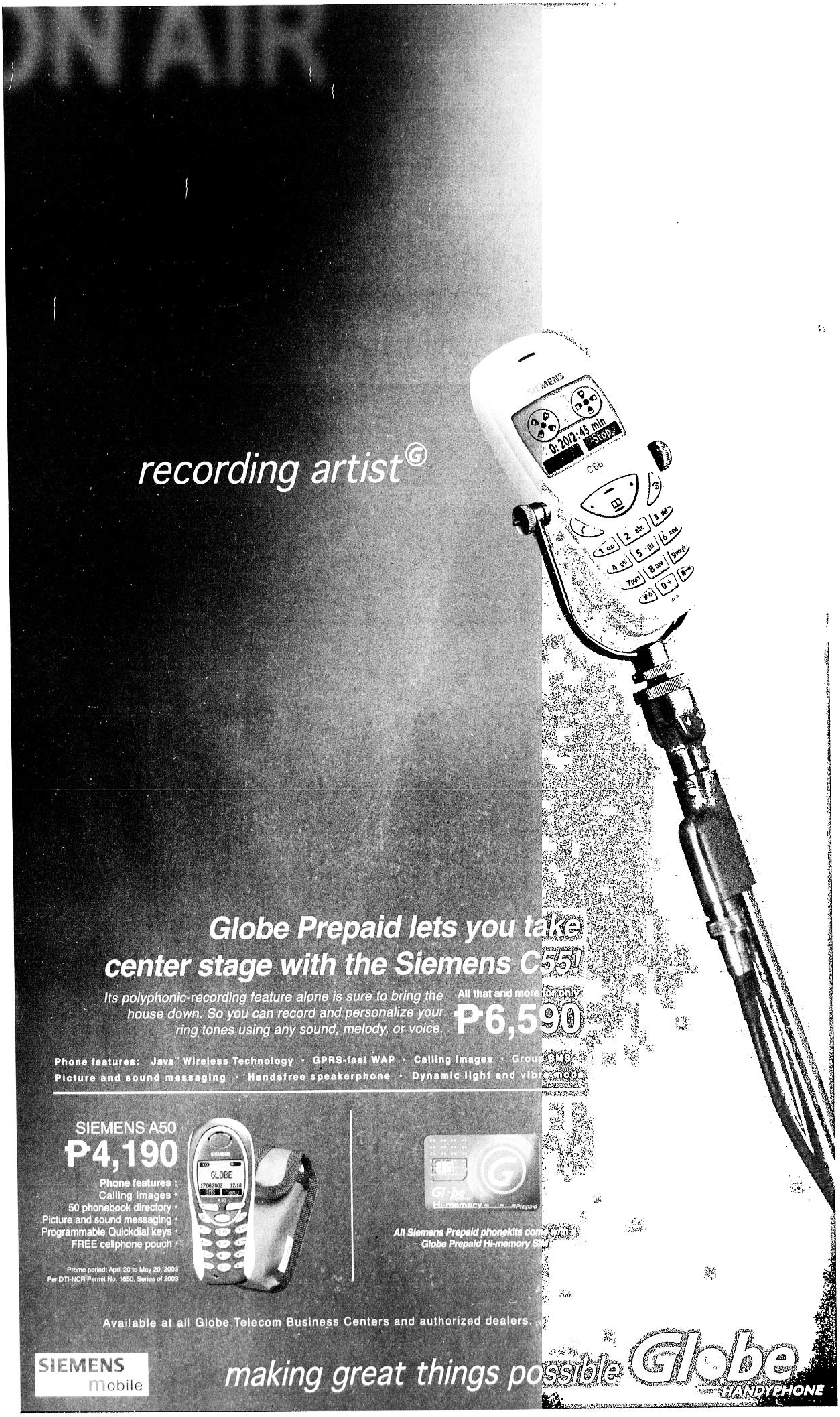
3 If accessories are more your thing, you're going to adore these Quiapo finds. Tell us about your favorite accessories at contest2bu@inquirer.com.ph. Use "I deserve these accessories" as subject. Send your answers along with your name, age, school/office and contact information. These trinkets may soon adorn your wrists.

You don't have to go all the way to Quiapo to get your hands on these finds. Dazzle us with your wit and we'll give them to you

2

3





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PHOTOS BY EDDIEBOY ESCUDERO

JIGGY WITH IT. Georgette Nepomuceno and Romina Urra

BLUE CHINA. Carmina Sanchez

JAPONOISE CHIC. Trish Briones and Chechel Joson

BLESS YOU. Rina Marquez, sari queen

EAST SIDE. Zak and Roisin of Society

IT GIRL IS BACK! Kyla Fernandez

TEMPLE MASTER. Erik Cua, our 23-year-old Dalai Lama

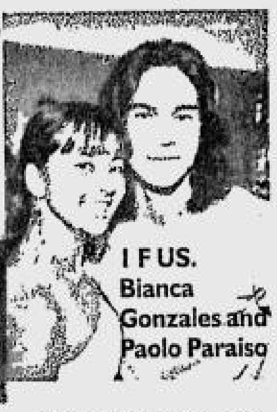
Temptation island

EMPEROR'S COURT. Raul Manzano, Audrey Tan, Miguel Zubiri and Maurice Arcache

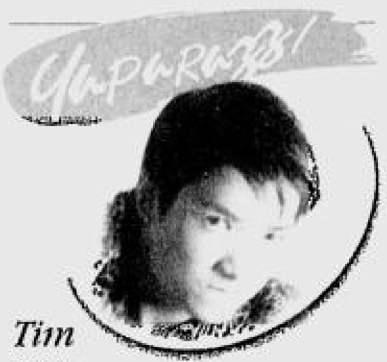
PREGNANT PAUSE. Patrick and Ingrid Go

CHINA CHOP. Kara Tolentino scores high with her do.

NEW COUPLE? Ana Kalaw and Ali Peek


I F US. Bianca Gonzales and Paolo Paraiso

STYLE TRIBE. Kate Torralba, Barbie Pardo, Tess Villareal and Jacques Chahine


Yaparazzi!

Tim Yap

THE POST-HOLY Week scene has sun drenched bodies yearning for a longer break—the "I-need-a-vacation-from-my-vacation" mode—and reminiscing the beach-bum lifestyle of the week gone by. Thankfully, I missed my early morning flight to the beach and chose to stay and hug my much missed companion—my bed.

Though the Holy Midweek gave me the beach itch, I just jazzed up my summer collection and got ready for **Manolet Dario**'s Easter eve party at Temple—which was packed with mucho, mucho partyphiles who decided that Manila was the best spot to chill this season.

Talking about Temple, this latest reason to go east this side of Greenbelt had a sassy, saucy opening party just about a week ago.

Uptown and downtown chic mixed and matched in Oriental orgasmic attires that spelled Asia with a capital A.

There were patchwork overload, sari seduction, kimono clusters and dragon dynamites all aflame.

I want to crown my favorite stylist **Jenni Epperson** with a "Miss Chinatown" title for her effortless Chinoise-street-chic-meets-Japanimation-robe style lux; **Miguel Rosales**, who brilliantly paired a Thailand souvenir shirt with a black Yohji jacket; and **Audrey Tan**, in a red cheongsam that spelled dragon lady—to birthday boy **Miguel Zubiri**.

There were more fun, funky and frivolous flavors as partyphiles worshipped at the latest hip bar-resto in town.

Every night was filled with Buddha-licious delights—from model-watching to party-grooving. Everything was just a prayer away.

Behind Temple's temptation is 23-year-old **Erik Cua**—nightlife's newest wünderkind. You must also know that he is the brains and muscle behind Eastwood City successes Jack's Loft (still the best cheesecake in town) and The Basement. Make way for Erik, dudes.

That night also coincided with PMAP prexy **Rissa Samson**'s natal day (shared with twin **Robby Mananquil**). DJs **Elain Habayeb, Martin Pulgar** and **Kevin Ruiz** (who can make me dance even in my sleep) pumped the music up, up and away, as the giant Buddha loomed over the partyphiles' heads, as if to watch over the random revelry.

Long lines formed to the bathroom, and even longer lines to the bar, as booze flowed freely, freely, freely.

Guests were gifted with candy tabs in the form of cigarettes reminiscent of Shanghai 20's and golden bouillons for prosperity.

K-Swiss hip-hopping

Friday's main event is the launch of K Swiss's "Got Love" hip hop tour.

Yup, you heard it right—K Swiss, that trusted shoe brand from our '80s childhood, is back with a hipper-than-hop, sole-ful renaissance.

The party kicks off at Culture Club with hot, hot, hot acts 7 shots, SVC, Paul "PKSO" Sirate, DJ Phatbone and DJ Kristyles, MC Nathan J, and Battle Crew Breakdancers.

If you wear your K Swiss (anywhere from head to foot, ya!), you get special prizes on the street-dancing spot.

While you're at it, check out the new line of Tongue Twister shoes that are fast gaining underground cult status.

Hip-hoppers, take note! Other dance dates are April 30 at Blue Onion at Eastwood, and May 9 at Club V in Makati.

The global trend is now focused on the street level, with dancing and the hip-hop lifestyle on prime-time spotlight—"Is it worth it? Let me work it!" Missy, here I come!

What are you waiting for? Hop into those shoes and get ready for some adult entertainment—slap it, raise it, groove it.

Got some love, partyphiles?

MISS CHINATOWN. Jenni Epperson's effortless elan

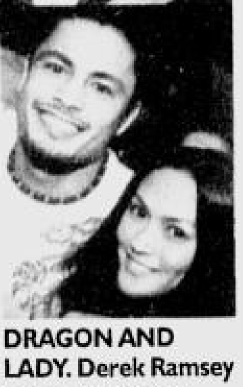
CHALK LIST. It couple Rafa Alunan and Amina Aranaz

PRETTY PAIR. PMAP prexy Rissa Samson and hubby Marzo

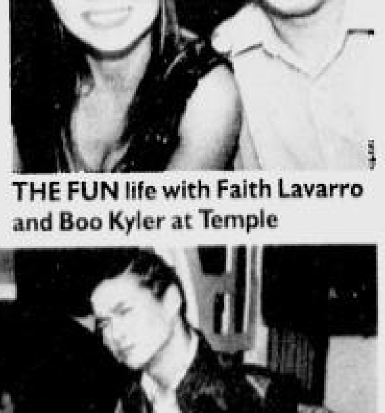
HUNKFEST. Paolo Bediones and Rovilson Fernandez

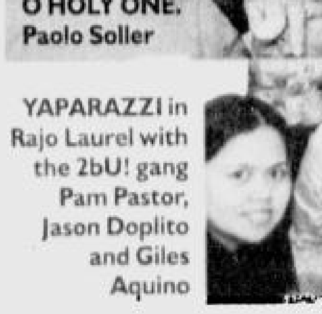
BLITZ. Val delos Santos and ian Tan

JAYA and Manolo off to Bed


DRAGON AND LADY. Derek Ramsey and Cesca Litton

SHOOT TO WIN. Vince Hizon and Shaan Bermude


THE FUN life with Faith Lavarro and Boo Kyler at Temple


O HOLY ONE. Paolo Soller

YAPARAZZI in Rajo Laurel with the 2bU! gang Pam Pastor, Jason Doplito and Giles Aquino

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The faces of Quiapo

Text by Pam Pastor
Photos by Mike Alquinto

THEY were shy. They were friendly. They were reluctant. They were eager. They were wordy. They were silent. They are new. They are not. They are young. They are old. They have one thing in common. The place they call home.

These are the faces of Quiapo. Will you pay them attention if you see them?

JinJin, candle vendor

Was seen: selling candles in front of Quiapo Church

Has been in Quiapo: for one year

What's the best thing about Quiapo? "*Nandito ang pera. At maraming tao.*"

What's the worst thing about Quiapo? "*Maraming tsismosa at pakialamera.*"

What is Quiapo's role in your life? "*Nakakatulong sa* financial."

Why should people go to Quiapo? "*Dahil sa panata nila.*"

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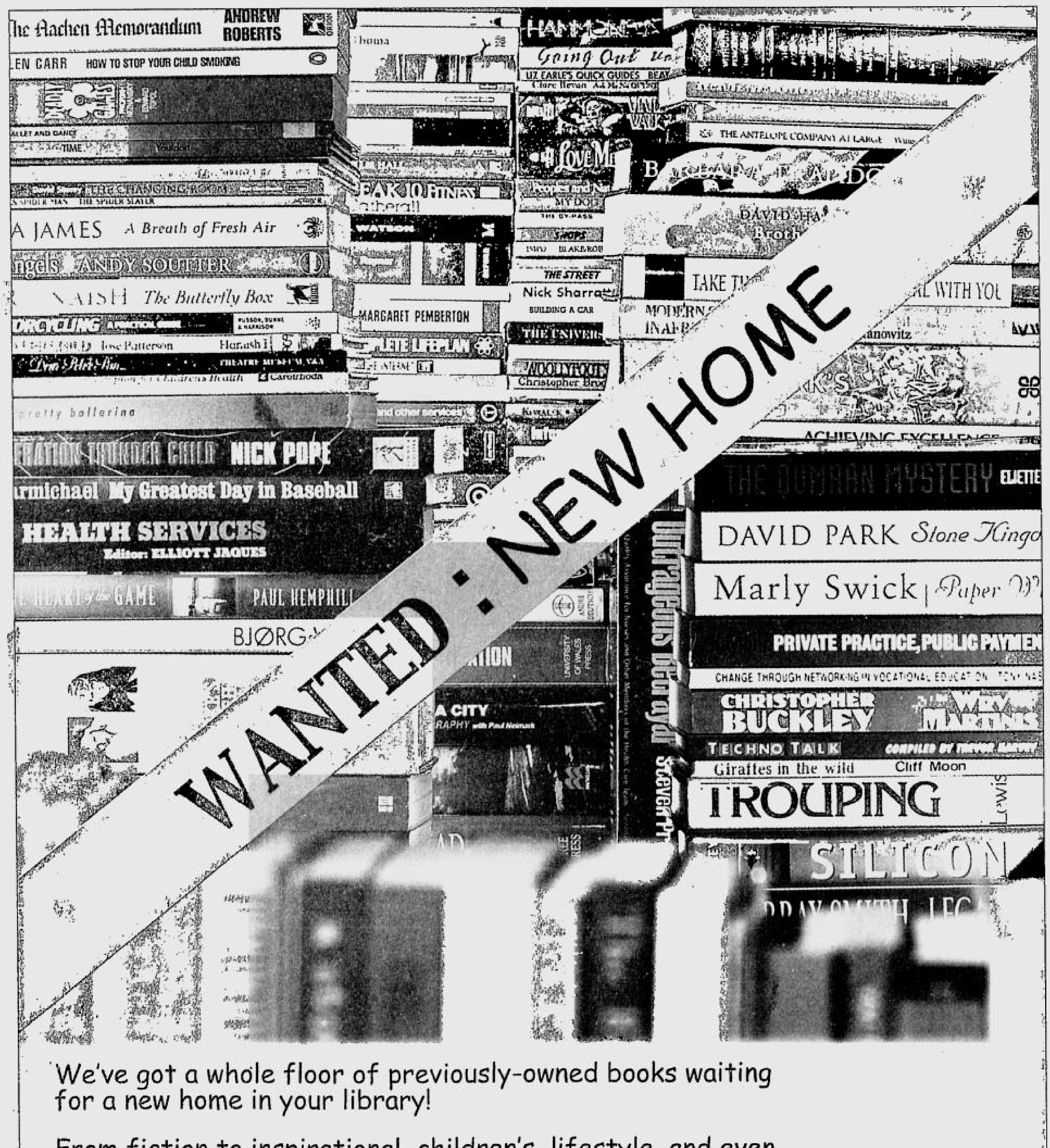

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Rosella, sampaguita vendor

Was seen: selling sampaguita with three other young girls

Has been in Quiapo: for two weeks

What's the best thing about Quiapo? "*Marami pong nagdadasal dito. At maraming tao.*"

What's the worst thing about Quiapo? "*Mga away-away.*"

What is Quiapo's role in your life? "*Dito po ako nagdadasal. At nandito po ang* Nazareno."

Why should people go to Quiapo? "*Para magsimba.*"

The faces of Quiapo

From page E1

Gallano, rosary vendor

Was seen: selling rosaries, prayer books and medallions from a makeshift stall attached to his wheelchair

Has been in Quiapo: for 37 years. He first came to Quiapo in 1966 to sell Sweepstakes tickets.

What's the best thing about Quiapo? "*Nakakapagtinda kami kahit* disabled."

What's the worst thing about Quiapo? "*Mga pulis.*"

What is Quiapo's role in your life? "*Maganda dahil malaya kaming nakakapaghanapbuhay. Araw-araw may tao. Ito na ang opisina ko.*"

Why should people go to Quiapo? "*Para magsimba.*"

Joselito, balloon vendor

Was seen: selling balloons in front of Quiapo Church

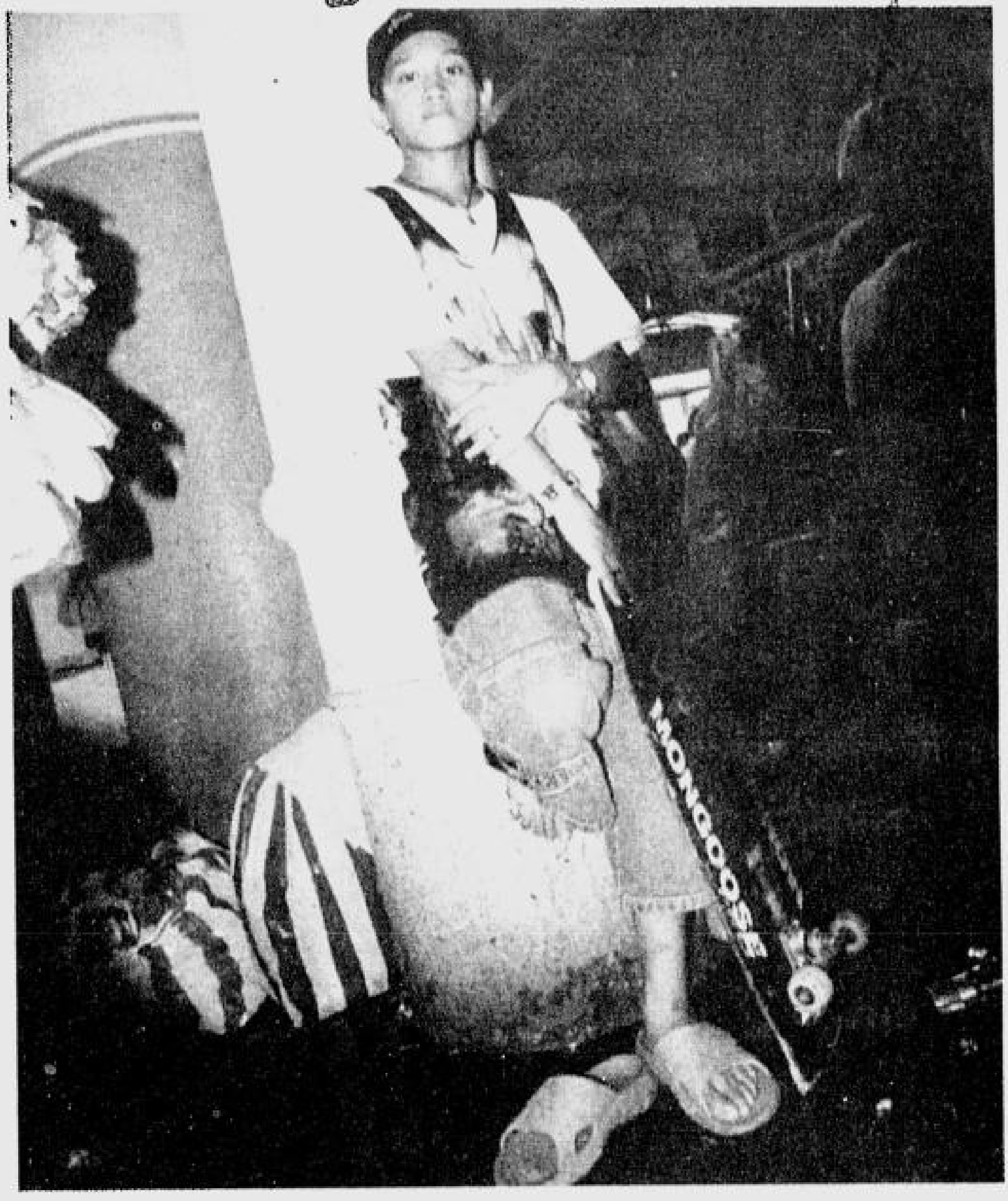
Has been in Quiapo: for four years, since he was 7 years old

What's the best thing about Quiapo? "*Simbahan.*"

What's the worst thing about Quiapo? "*Wala.*"

What is Quiapo's role in your life? "*Hanapbuhay.*"

Why should people go to Quiapo? "*Para magsimba.*"



Marlon

Was seen: doing tricks on his skateboard

Has been in Quiapo: forever, since he was a baby. He's 14 now.

What's the best thing about Quiapo? "*Kasiyahan at mga kaibigan.*"

What's the worst thing about Quiapo? "*Mga gulo.*"

What is Quiapo's role in your life? "*Tambayan.*"

Why should people go to Quiapo? "*Para magsimba. Masaya sa* Quiapo, *minsan magulo.*"

Skin-care solutions

Lora Gabol

WEEK after week, I find my inbox flooded with inquiries on the best products for the skin. With tubes and tubes of cleansers and moisturizers lining store shelves, it is quite a challenge to find the products that will, once and for all, agree with your skin and not make it look like a chemical explosion site. The right skin-care regimen, has, apparently, become the Holy Grail of beauty.

While these requests add a load to my beauty research, I am glad to hear that more and more women (and men!) are becoming more and more discriminating in terms of choosing the stuff that touches their skin. That old bar of soap just won't do anymore! Believing that proper skin care is one of the best beauty investments is probably the single piece of knowledge that can make a difference with the way you look, take care of yourself, and yes, even how you spend your money on products.

Tempting as it may be to stock up on the most luxurious and expensive brands available today, the first thing to remember is that the price tag on a product is not necessarily proportional to the results it will deliver. Also, stocking up after reading on the products Donita Rose has on her dresser also won't guarantee the number of endorsements she has, much less her complexion. When picking out the best of the lot, consulting a perky sales rep or the latest slew of recommendations in a glossy magazine only comes next to consulting your own skin.

Understanding the way your skin reacts to products and other factors is the first step to achieving the healthiest complexion. No two skin types are alike, which explains how that moisturizer keeps your sister's skin aglow while it makes you break out. Knowing your skin type and its needs is something that takes thoughtful consideration and a lot of time. Lucky for you I'll be making it easier. Wash off all the gunk you have on, take out a mirror and be honest.

Dry skin

The lowdown:

- Your skin has a matte finish even without powder, no gleaming spots whatsoever.
- Friends tell you you're lucky not to have caverns for pores.
- You find yourself complaining about premature aging, finding a few "wrinkles" here and there, fine lines on parts of the face.
- You are sometimes plagued with red patches and rough, flaking skin.

What you worry about:

- Visible signs of aging (lines and wrinkles) developing earlier
- Your skin going berserk with climate changes (especially in cooler weather), feeling tight and even peeling
- Greater susceptibility to allergies

What you need:

- Mild, non-drying, non-irritating products with as few ingredients as possible (to avoid puffy faces and other allergic reactions)
- Moisture, moisture, moisture! And I don't mean grease, okay?
- A mild treatment for your occasional battles with acne. Think tea tree oil.

Oily skin

The lowdown:

- Your vain friends check their reflections on the glistening surface that is your forehead.
- Your pores mimic the craters on the moon.
- You have a stash of benzoyl peroxide, salicylic acid, and tea tree oil for your too-often zit attacks.

What you worry about:

- Pimples, blackheads, whiteheads that appear on the worst places, at the wrong time.
- The time oil blotting sheets will be phased out. How can you live with a greaseball for a face?

What you need:

- Non-comedogenicity. In other words, products that won't get too friendly and stay too long in your pores
- Light formulas that will allow your skin to breathe and won't be a chore to wash off
- A moisturizer, believe it or not! The key words: oil-free

Combination skin

The lowdown:

- You're shiny in some places—your nose and forehead. This gets worse during the hot and humid summer months.
- You wish you can transfer all the excess "moisture" on your T-zone to your dry cheeks.
- You get breakouts sometimes, allergies on occasion.

What you worry about:

- Once-in-a-while (but once too many) pimple breakouts and clogged pores on your nose
- Shiny portions of your face in the summer
- Dry as the Sahara complexion around Christmas

What you need:

- Balance. Your products should target dry areas with moisture and oil-control for excess grease.

Now that you've categorized your skin type and discovered exactly what it needs to maintain its health, you need a reliable line to help. The VMV Hypoallergenics line has been in the business of taking care of all skin types even before the boom of beauty products, and is continuing to make satisfied, loyal users of their customers until this very day. Their secret is the simplicity of the products they offer—free of the "frilly" and complicated regimens some labels recommend. They are firm believers of cleansing, toning and moisturizing, but have added an extra step to this regimen: protecting. True advocates of the anti-sun damage school of beauty, they also specialize in intensive sun protection, a must for optimum skin condition.

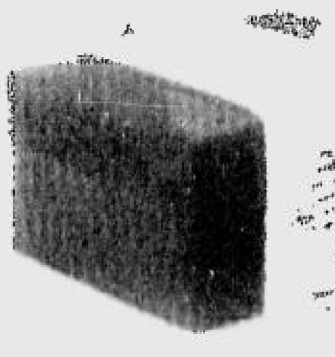
After categorizing your skin type, the next logical step is to use the products formulated especially for your skin condition. Borne of in-depth research and testing, the skin-care lines of VMV Hypoallergenics were instant hits for many problematic, skin-conscious people. The simple, color-coded system makes this even easier.

Milk White for dry skin. Cleanse with the Super Cream Cleanser everyday, and exfoliate with the Super Skin Cleanser with Pumice twice a week. Follow up with Superskin 1 to deep cleanse and tone. Nourish dry skin with Superskin Supermoisturizer to replenish moisture levels and smoothen skin. Lastly, protect skin from the harmful sun with Armada sunscreen.

Spring Green for oily skin. Wash away dirt and grime with the Super Cream Cleanser for Oily Skin, slough off dead skin cells with Super Cream Cleanser with pumice, or treat with Super Cream Cleanser with Zinc PCA and pumice. Use Superskin 3 to refresh, and Superskin Pore Minimiser to tighten enlarged pores. Hydrate with Oil-Free Superskin Moisturizer with SPF 15. Don't skip the sunscreen.

Summer Peach for combination skin. Use Super Cream Cleanser for combination skin day and night, alternate with Superskin Cleanser with Pumice at least twice a week. Apply Superskin 2, a fresh toner, with cotton ball after cleansing. Superskin Moisturizer SPF 15 is my favorite for a supple, fresh complexion, and I follow up with Armada Face Cover SPF 45 to avoid sun damage.

VMV Hypoallergenics has expanded its skin care line with a Spa/Clinic for intensive beauty treatments to improve skin condition even more. Visit Original Skin by VMV at King's Court, Pasong Tamo, Makati, or call 889-6137 to 39.

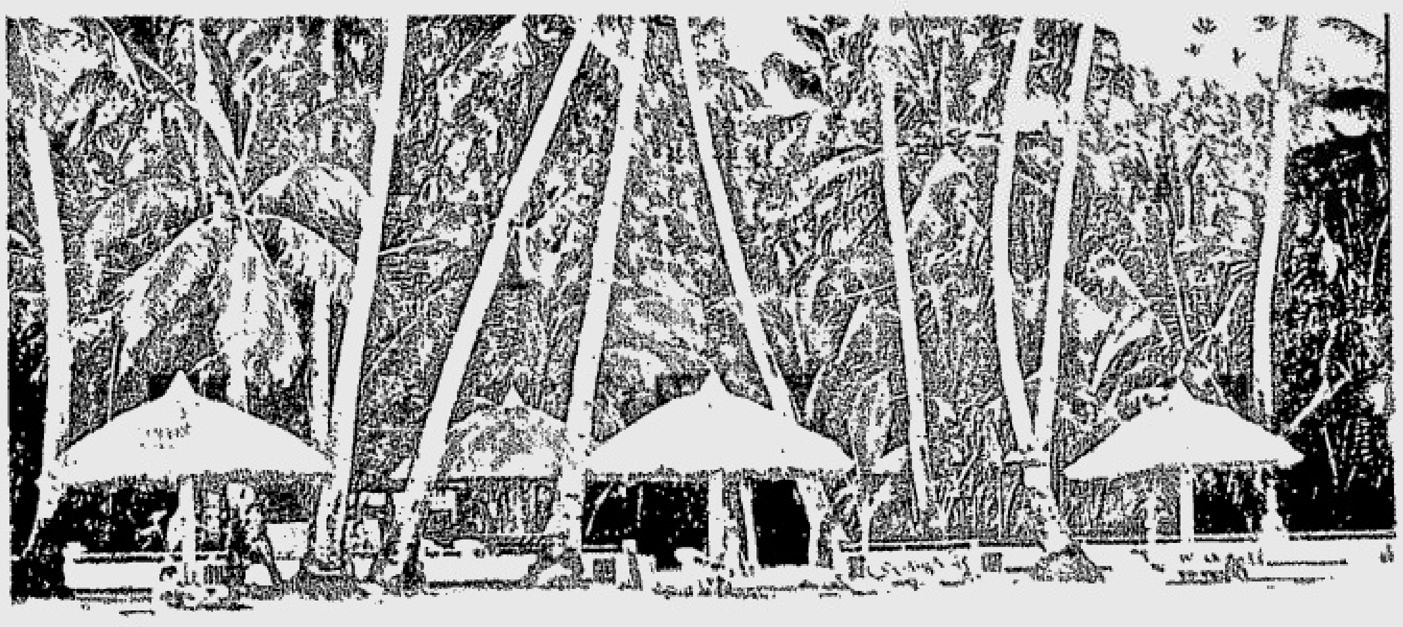


Reference: VMV Hypoallergenics Newsletter, The Skin Issue

VMV Hypoallergenics are available at Watson's and major department stores.

E-mail the author at pdi_vanityfare@hotmail.com

Only one reigns with over 9 million subscribers this summer

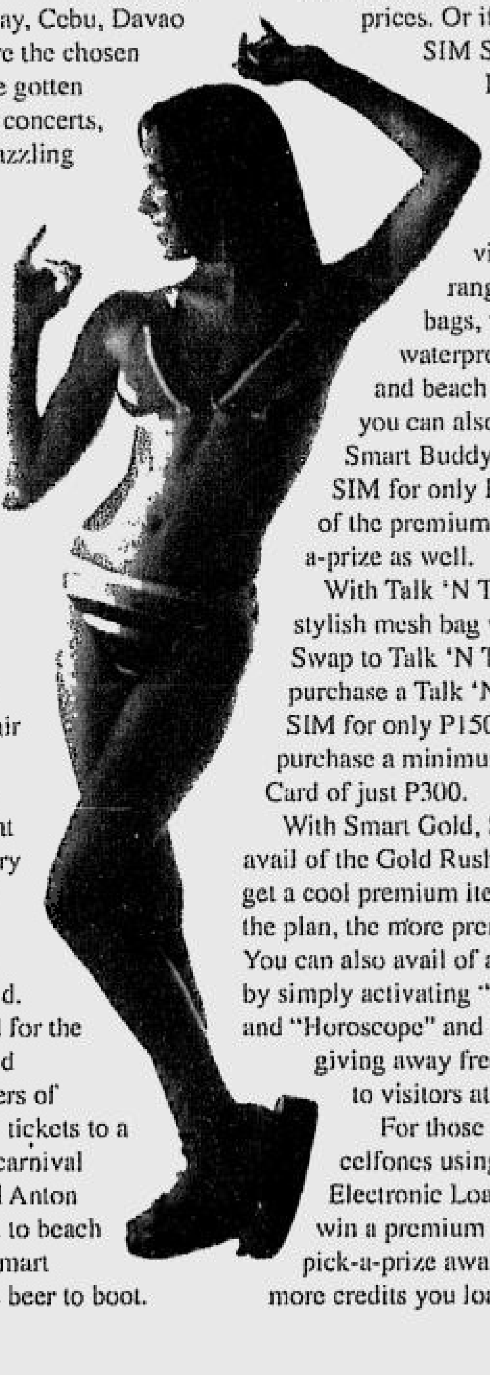


The blazing hot days of summer are with us once again and Smart is in full throttle party mode, With Smart's 8 million subscriber milestone celebrations still fresh in the minds of all those who reveled during the Domin8 series last December, Smart kicked off this summer with yet another reason to celebrate: another 1 million subscribers earned in a span of just a few months, bringing its ever-growing subscriber base to over a whopping 9 million.

Smart Rei9ns is undoubtedly the theme party of the year. Aptly, the parties are being thrown in 9 popular hotspots across the country. Baguio, Subic, Enchanted Kingdom, Batangas, Puerto Galera, Boracay, Cebu, Davao and Metro Manila, are the chosen destinations that have gotten blitzed by a series of concerts, parties, games and dazzling firework displays.

Since April 16, the Smart Rei9ns festivities have been in full swing in Baguio, Batangas, Boracay and Enchanted Kingdom.

For Smart subscribers who chose to reminisce Panagbenga and spend the holidays amidst the pine trees and crisp mountain air of Baguio, a free refreshing welcome drink awaited them at either Baguio Country Club or Camp John Hay, where they could also enjoy the shows at the Ballfield. For those who opted for the powder-fine sand and turquoise green waters of Boracay, discounted tickets to a 3-day Easter dance carnival featuring Slinky and Anton Ramos were offered to beach partyphiles on the Smart network, with a free beer to boot.



And for a totally enchanting offer, free 'Ride All' tickets have been available at Enchanted Kingdom for every ticket bought using Smart Money or Mobile Coupon.

Smart Rei9ns is in fact a treasure trove of offers designed to make each and every one of their 9 million subscribers feel rewarded for their loyalty, as well as give new subscribers a taste of what makes Smart simply amazing.

And for those who aren't yet on the Smart network, there are myriad reasons to sign up pronto. With Smart Buddy, you can own a brand new Nokia 2100 for just or a Nokia 3315 for only at incredibly affordable prices. Or if you prefer, SIM Swap to a Smart Buddy 64K Super SIM and get neat summer premium items via pick-a-prize, ranging from mesh bags, visors, caps, waterproof cell pouches and beach mats. Similarly, you can also purchase a Smart Buddy 64K Super SIM for only P199 and avail of the premium items via pick-a-prize as well.

With Talk 'N Text, grab a stylish mesh bag when you SIM Swap to Talk 'N Text Power SIM, purchase a Talk 'N Text Power SIM for only P150 or when you purchase a minimum Call and Text Card of just P300.

With Smart Gold, SIM Swap or avail of the Gold Rush package and get a cool premium item. The higher the plan, the more premium the item. You can also avail of a free vanity kit by simply activating "My Calendar" and "Horoscope" and Smart IDD is giving away free cool postcards to visitors at the booth.

For those who load their celfones using Smart Electronic Load, a chance to win a premium item through pick-a-prize awaits you. The more credits you load, the more chances you get of picking-a-prize. And with Smart Money, enroll in the loyalty program, pay just P200 and get a stylish mesh bag or vanity kit. Also, you can register to Smart Mobile Coupon service by typing <Reg First Name, Last Name, Birthday, Gender, Interest, # of messages to be received/week> and send to 270 for 3 chances to win a pen or notepad.

And finally, for the savvy techies out there who indulge in a lot of MMS, activate your Smart MMS and GPRS features using your MMS-capable handset and get a chance to win a stylish mesh beach bag.

Expect to see more perks exclusively for Smart subscribers in all 9 hotspots. A 'Mobile Pitstop', for instance, is a new concept designed to assist Smart subscribers with their celfone needs. Expect to see a lounge and service center exclusively for Smart transactions. This is just one of the many privileges in store for Smart subscribers this summer.

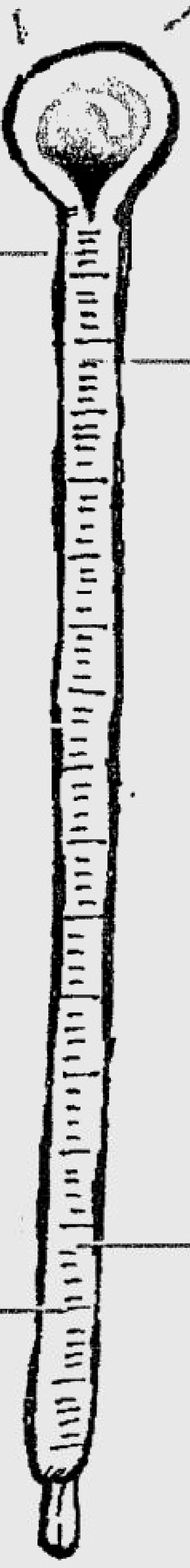
Expect to see and hear more about Smart Rei9ns as we prepare for yet another heatwave. If one thing's for sure, there'll be at least 9 million happy, partying out-of-towners this summer.

Advt.

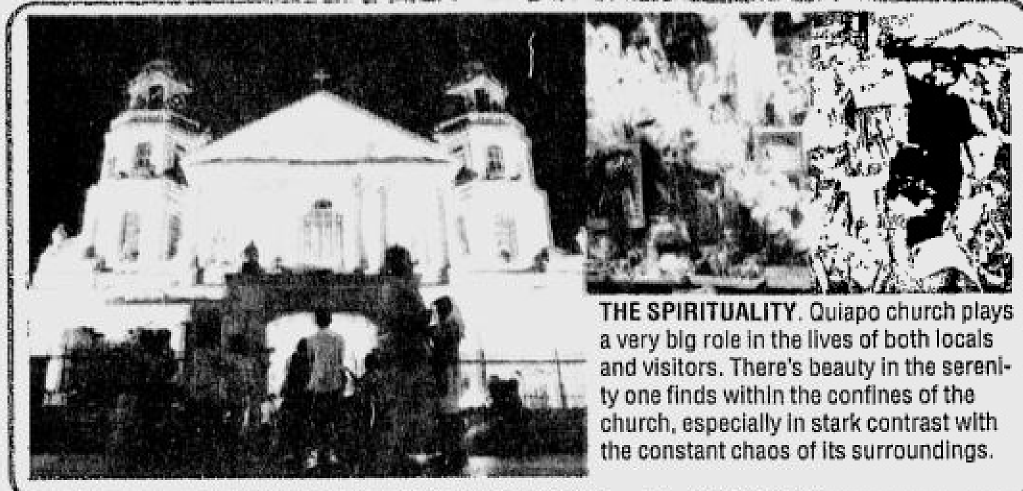
2BU! THERMOMETER

What's hot and what's not in the district of Quiapo

Photos by Mike Alquinto



PRICES. Quiapo redefines the word "inexpensive." And if whatever it is that you wish to buy is not cheap enough, you can always whip out your bargaining skills until the prices are low enough for your budget.



THE SPIRITUALITY. Quiapo church plays a very big role in the lives of both locals and visitors. There's beauty in the serenity one finds within the confines of the church, especially in stark contrast with the constant chaos of its surroundings.

QUIAPO HOSPITALITY. Contrary to what a lot of people think, some Quiapo locals are actually friendly. They strike up conversations and give directions with enough warmth that can't be expected from strangers.

COOL COOL QUIAPO. Finally, the underpass has air-conditioning. It's a major relief from the unbearable summer heat.

MELTING POT. We saw two Moslem women in complete garb, buying chicken from KFC. Quiapo is where people from all cultures, standpoints and lifestyles meet. Everything is real and at the same time dream-like.

PIRACY. Do we really have to explain this?

UNABASHED AWE. Strangers gaped at our photographer's cameras, they read our IDs out loud and asked questions about the paper. Their curiosity and interest were so real, so honest, so unlike the jaded front put up by most people we meet every day.

WHAT is the government doing for Quiapo? No, really.

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THE PUSHING AND SHOVING. Pedicab drivers holler at you to get out of the way. Shoppers push you. Countless elbows jostle you. When vendors talk to you, they get really close. Apparently, respect for one's personal space is absent in this district.

THE CRIME RATE. We've heard countless stories of people losing their phones, bags, themselves in Quiapo. We're only grateful it didn't happen to us.

PEOPLE WHO SPIT ON THE STREETS. Number one, it's unhygienic. Number two, it's disgusting. Nah, we don't need a number three.

Girl gets tired of initiating dates with boyfriend

Niño Mark Sablan & September Mabino

DEAR Sep and Mark,

There is a guy I've been seeing (and I think I'm in love with him) for almost a year now, and he seems to be the ideal man I've been looking for. He's cute, fun, has a good job, and best of all, he makes me feel good. That sounds perfect, right? But the problem is that we rarely see each other. Since we both have jobs, we are too busy to hang out and date regularly.

Another problem is that lately, I've been feeling as if I'm always the one who has to call him up just so we can schedule a date or a little trip. It's as if I'm the one taking charge of things. I'm older than him, and being the one who always does the initiating makes me feel older than I really am.

Sometimes, I don't contact him for a while just so he can have the opportunity to call me up and invite me to go out. But that only results in not hearing from him for weeks, and the longest that I've waited was about a month and a half.

My friends have asked me if he really is worth putting up with all that trouble, and I tell them that he's the only guy whom I can have so much fun with. Only, that doesn't happen as often as I'd like. So that is what we have to work on in our relationship. What do you guys think?

MS DAZED AND CONFUSED

Sure, he seems to have the qualities that you've been looking for in a man. Sure, he is the best date you've ever had. But if you measured the time that you spent sitting on your hands and waiting in vain for him to call you, you'd find out that you could have had enough time and opportunities to meet 10 other guys who could prove to be good dates as well, or even good boyfriends.

Any self-respecting person can see that all the good things you like about your guy is outweighed by the hellish uncertainty he gives you in your non-progressing relationship. And, come to think of it, if he likes you and knows how to make you feel good, then he should know better than ignoring you for weeks after one good date.

My advice is don't take him too seriously because he certainly does that to you. Maintain the power balance by treating him as flippantly as he treats you and be open to meeting other better fish. I'm sure they're out there.

SEP

Dear Miss Dazed and Confused, who's probably desperate and masochistic too, you have to be reminded that blaming one's job for the absence of color in your love life is pointless. You surely can't sue your employer or expect you and your *bhabes* to drop your day jobs like a hot potato, just to have more time for fries or caviar. Out there in the jungle, Jacks and Jills juggle career and love (and more) and they're not even Wonder Woman or Krusty the Clown to begin with. Looks like your man is no juggler, or maybe he has a knack for juggling other stuff (uhm, girl perhaps?).

Pat your back for actively pursuing your own happiness. Pat it dry, too, since your back is probably wet with all the initiating you've been forced to do. I know you're irked by now since every girl deserves to be pursued at least one thousand times, and the one you think you already love hasn't pursued you even once.

The responsible and active you may simply be attributed to the fact that you are older. Not a bad thing, actually. Your actions are understandable and commendable for a while, but do you want to be your boyfriend's mom, really?

You've thrown one and a half months into the trash bin. Don't waste another day. Just think of the many dishes and Dicks (or Toms and Harries) you can sample instead of yawning and obsessive-compulsively glancing at your watch.

Fun isn't the only criterion you should base a relationship on. If that's the only reason why you're holding on to your *bhabes*, look around and realize that there are many Georges in the jungle who can give you more fun—if that's what you're really looking for in a relationship.

Sure, your boyfriend makes you feel good about yourself—every time you're together, which is like once a month, I suppose, but why not feel glorious 29 days a month as opposed to feeling good only once a month?

Try to let go of your pet and get back into the groove of the jungle.

MARK

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LIFESTYLE

Quiapo is the place where fortunes are made. Ask Quiapo's outlandish fortune tellers

Gloria Arroyo and the Queen of Millennium Prophets

Text by Tim Yap
Photos by Mike Alquinto

"*SA NGALAN ng Ama, ng Anak, at ng Espiritu Santo*..." the priest's booming voice reverberates even outside the Quiapo church, where vendors of all colors, shapes and sizes huddle like sheep, very much like the prayerful people crowding God's temple on an Easter Sunday afternoon.

"Amen." As the guy in robes ends the Mass, all who are engaged in the commerce of Church Inc. respectfully make the sign of the cross. Never mind if the customer is about to pay for the corn that he has ordered, or the *chicharon* that is just being packed, or the "*kwek-kwek*" that has just been fried.

If Jesus would suddenly come upon the scene, he would think twice before driving the merchants away from the temple.

"Pu***g ina m# pare!" A guy kisses his buddy with a fist and runs away.

Around Plaza Miranda, a thousand and one scenes unfold—from vendors feverishly selling their wares to children slugging it out for the last 25-centavo coin of an alms giver, lovers finding a moment to sit on a chain, and businessmen in motorbikes shuffling to and fro the marketplace.

In other parts of the world, this would be the height of underground edge—with skateboarders happily gliding around, kids in shabby chic and nomads in whatchamacallit fashion happily coming and going aimlessly.

But to us, it is just Quiapo, ubiquitous as the jeepney route and despised as Divisoria in terms of chaos, pollution and traffic.

Millennium fortune

On the opposite side of God's temple is a stretch of women, with chairs lined in front of them. If I hadn't known what they did, I would think that these women were out to give mass pedicure services to tired churchgoers.

"For P100, your millennium fortune will be told," says a woman in rose-colored shades, a pearly pink bonnet encrusted with diamantes that can compete with the costumes for rent at Camp Suki, and a shiny purple shawl to match.

With her colorful frump, she stands out from the battalion of fortune tellers. Of course, I choose her.

As our photographer Mike Alquinto explains to the woman why he needs to shoot her, another la femme bohemia interrupts him and urges him to speak in English. "*Inglisin mo, magaling yan sa Inglisan!*" she says.

In the Quiapo of contrasts, she who speaks the best English is queen.

"I am the only one with a certificate from Cardinal Sin and Santo Papa to operate here," I look into her eyes as she rattles off her credentials and she shows me a bunch of cheap laminated computer printouts that dangle around her neck like treasured pieces from the family chest.

The true president

On her lap lies a cardboard filled with tape, with random words inscribed on it—"Queen of Prophets," "Millennium kingdom" and other big words that sound mystical.

GLORIA / F3

Do you want to be part of the 2BU family?

IF writing is your passion and meeting deadlines is a breeze for you, we invite you to become one of us.

First, tell us about yourself—who you are, what you do, what makes you tick. Tell us about your disastrous blind date, if you wish.

Then, choose from the following (or if you're feeling up to it, you can work on everything).

Write a movie, album, book or TV show review.

Make a profile of your favorite personality (He/she doesn't have to be someone we know.)

Impress us with a travelogue.

Write a feature story on something you think we should know about.

Please make sure each article is less than 500 words.

Send this, along with your other work samples (no poetry, please), to ls_2bu@inquirer.com.ph.

We will be accepting applications until May 7.

WHAT'S ON at Robinsons

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[illegible]

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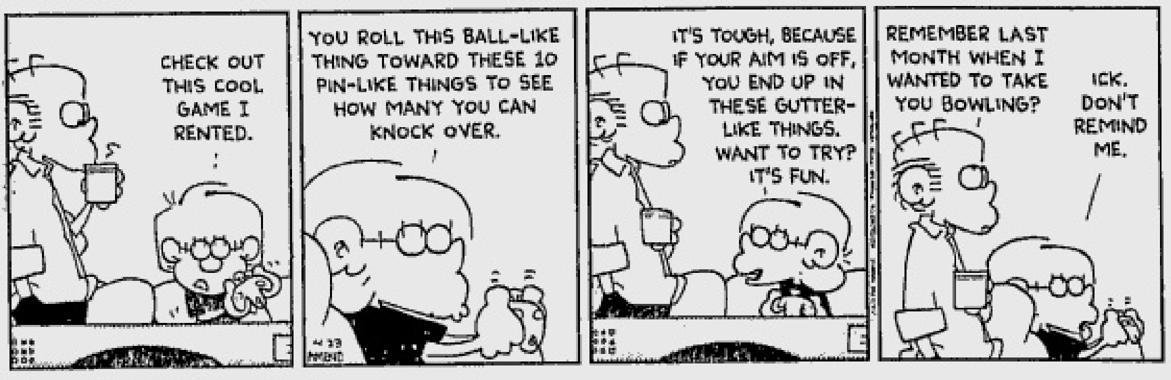
Camera: Columbia • Global Photo Sales Corporation

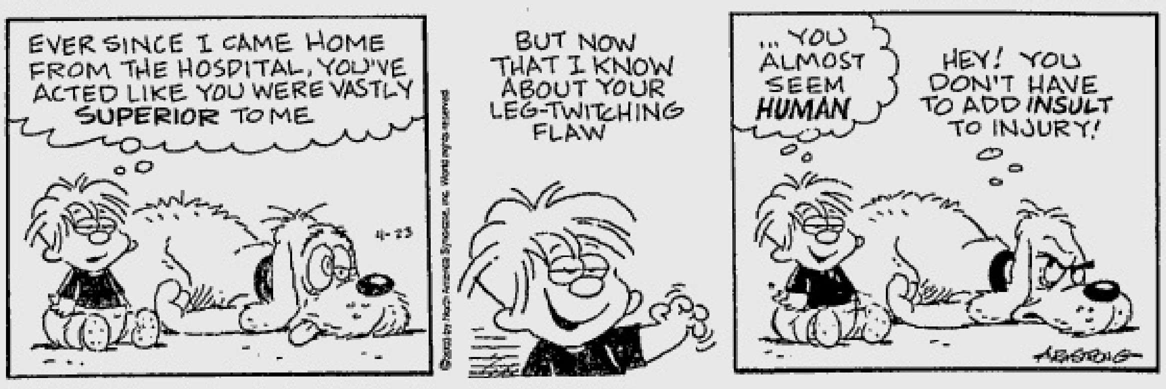
Shangri-La Plaza

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
ComicRelief
e-mail feedback at arts@inquirer.com.ph
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23, 2003

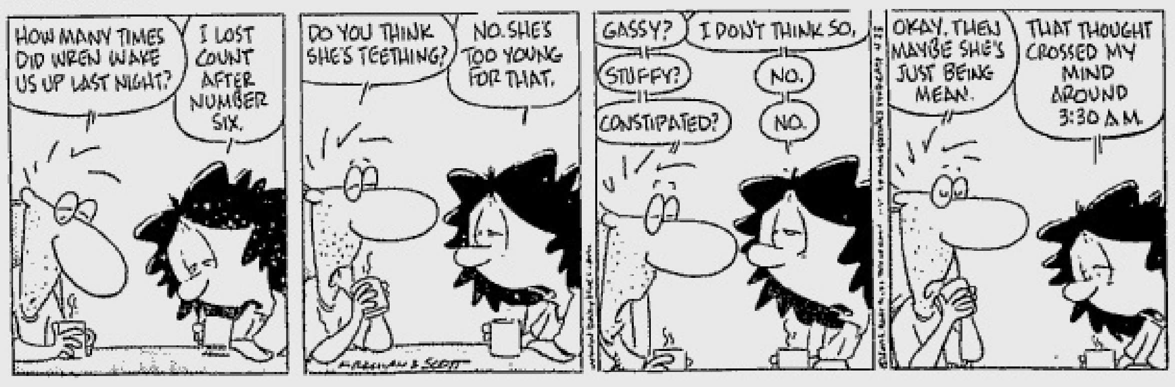
FOXTROT BY BILL AMEND


CHECK OUT THIS COOL GAME I RENTED.
YOU ROLL THIS BALL-LIKE THING TOWARD THESE 10 PIN-LIKE THINGS TO SEE HOW MANY YOU CAN KNOCK OVER.
4-23 AMEND
IT'S TOUGH, BECAUSE IF YOUR AIM IS OFF, YOU END UP IN THESE GUTTER-LIKE THINGS. WANT TO TRY? IT'S FUN.
REMEMBER LAST MONTH WHEN I WANTED TO TAKE YOU BOWLING?
ICK. DON'T REMIND ME.

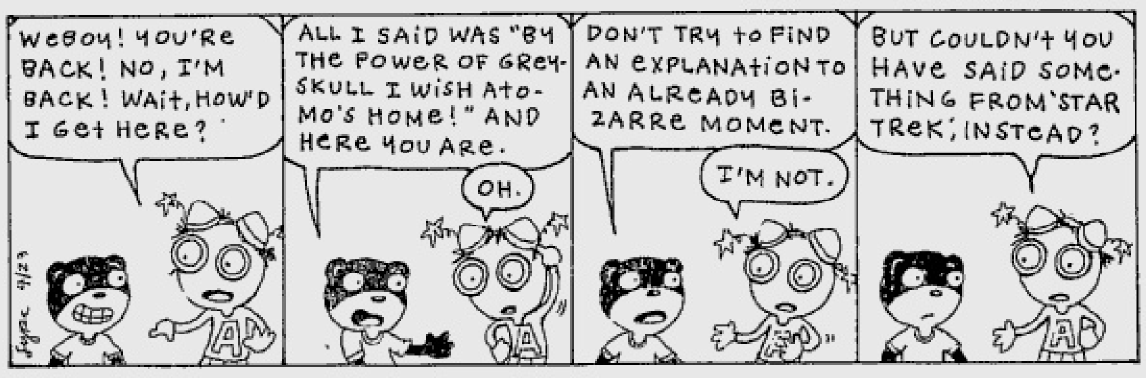
MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG


EVER SINCE I CAME HOME FROM THE HOSPITAL, YOU'VE ACTED LIKE YOU WERE VASTLY SUPERIOR TO ME
4-23
BUT NOW THAT I KNOW ABOUT YOUR LEG-TWITCHING FLAW
...YOU ALMOST SEEM HUMAN
HEY! YOU DON'T HAVE TO ADD INSULT TO INJURY!
ARMSTRONG

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


HOW MANY TIMES DID WREN WAKE US UP LAST NIGHT?
I LOST COUNT AFTER NUMBER SIX.
DO YOU THINK SHE'S TEETHING?
NO. SHE'S TOO YOUNG FOR THAT.
GASSY?
I DON'T THINK SO.
STUFFY?
NO.
CONSTIPATED?
NO.
OKAY. THEN MAYBE SHE'S JUST BEING MEAN.
THAT THOUGHT CROSSED MY MIND AROUND 3:30 A.M.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


WeBoy! You're BACK! NO, I'M BACK! Wait, How'D I Get Here?
Lyra 4/23
ALL I SAiD WAS "BY THE POWER OF GREY-SKULL I WISH ATO-MO'S HOME!" AND HERE YOU ARE.
OH.
DON'T TRY TO FIND AN EXPLANATION TO AN ALREADY BI-ZARRE MOMENT.
I'M NOT.
BUT COULDN'T YOU HAVE SAID SOME-THING FROM 'STAR TREK,' INSTEAD?

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: It is your nature to be nurturing and protective of others. You care about people, and you care what they think of you as well. You value family and are an excellent parent. Nevertheless, your career is very important to you. Juggling this is a challenge. Marriage and all social relationships are favored this year.
Birthdate of: Michael O'Keefe, actor; Barbra Streisand, singer/actress; Shirley MacLaine, actress/dancer.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Think about what recent job changes or residential moves have achieved for you. You are now finishing a cycle that started in 1996 and during which you have completely reinvented yourself!

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): In the past two years, you gave long and serious thought to your basic values. You want to know what really matters in life.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Big changes have taken place in your life in the past two years. Now it's time to get more serious about your job. Think about how you can work at something you truly enjoy.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): The year 2003 is definitely a benchmark year for you. After giving up many things, you will suddenly find yourself in an entirely new sandbox.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Starting this year, you enter a two-year window where you will give up things. This could involve a startling shift that takes you to a new place by 2005.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Your idealism is aroused now, and you want to be part of something bigger than yourself. You want to make the world a better place.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You are about to enter an extremely powerful time. This year you will discover what is working in your life and what is not. Much success will be yours.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Make changes at home and accept the cooperation of co-workers. In the next two years, you move very clearly toward a career peak or a time of culmination in 2005.

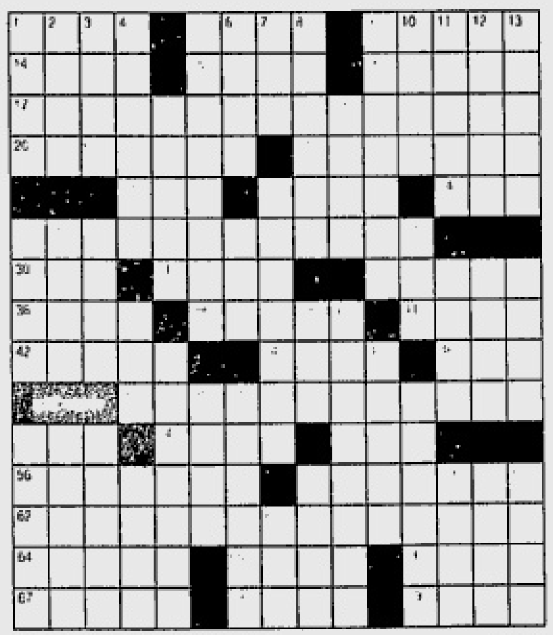
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Do everything that you can to get better organized now. You want to feel on top of your scene. You want to be able to put your hand out and touch whatever you are looking for.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): This is a fun-filled, flirtatious time for your sign. New romance can begin. Playful activities with children are delightful.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Now that your job has improved, you can expect to work very hard in the next few years. Do this because you will step out on stage—like a debut—in 2005.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Many of you enter a period of increased responsibilities with regard to children. Privately, some of you are asking, "What do I really want to be when I grow up?"

DAILY CROSSWORD

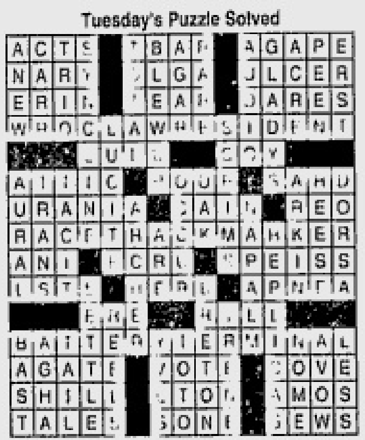


By Bruce Venske & Stella Daily
Madison, WI
4/23/03

ACROSS
1 Play opening
5 Mother of Horus
9 Postage
14 Stranger fiction
15 Cyrano's feature
16 Speakers' platforms
17 Highway U-ey?
20 Faster
21 Trainer or dentist
22 Shell propeller
23 Lady's beau
24 Low digit
25 State dance
30 Japanese sash
31 Olds cars
32 Smart-alecky
36 Connection
38 Large horns
41 Marvin of Motown
42 Sidled
44 Belligerent god
46 Genetic letters
47 Ty Cobb
51 Belief system
54 Hot tubs
55 Variety movies
56 Animal that plays dead
58 Zeroed in on
62 Stately horse?
64 Rite place
65 Johnson of "Rowan and Martin's Laugh-In"
66 Grow weary
67 Slumbered
68 Tax-return period
69 Hank or Phoebe

DOWN
1 Lawyers: abbr.
2 Masticate
3 Scorsese film, "__ Driver"
4 Dazed and confused
5 Surfing site?
6 Like Aesop's grapes
7 Leb. neighbor
8 Transmitter
9 Elfin beings
10 Cat's-paw
11 Rated X
12 "Rebel without a Cause" co-star
13 Military chaplain
18 One step
19 British composer
23 Windy speakers
25 Meadow mouse
26 In the same place: Lat.
27 Frodo's band
28 Debtor's letters
29 Fall behind
33 Poet Teasdale
34 Out of __ (discordant)
35 Slangy okay
37 Beer buy
39 Jackie's second
40 Naval might
43 Profiterole or pie
45 Virgo star
48 Numbered musical piece
49 British PM MacDonald
50 Rejoices
51 Greek letters
52 Compete in a bee
53 El __, CA
57 Ginger cookie
58 Greek cheese
59 Coating
60 Architect Saarinen
61 Took a straw
63 Before, in poetry

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved



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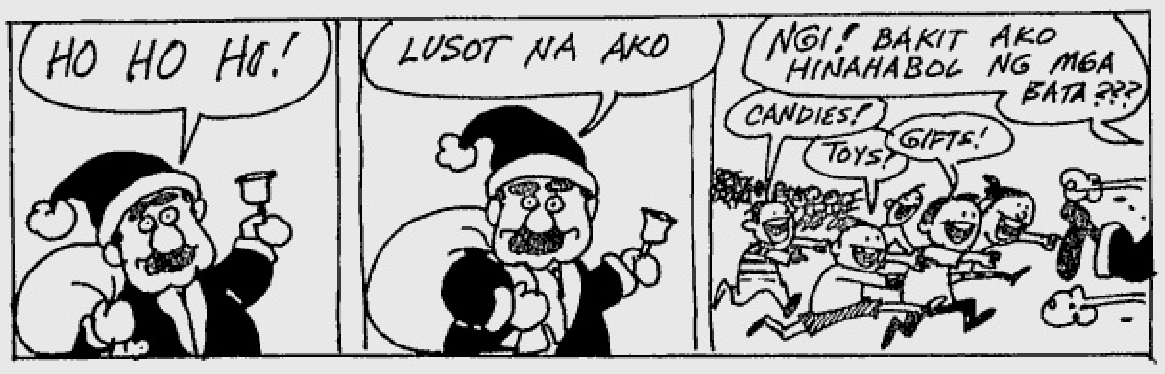
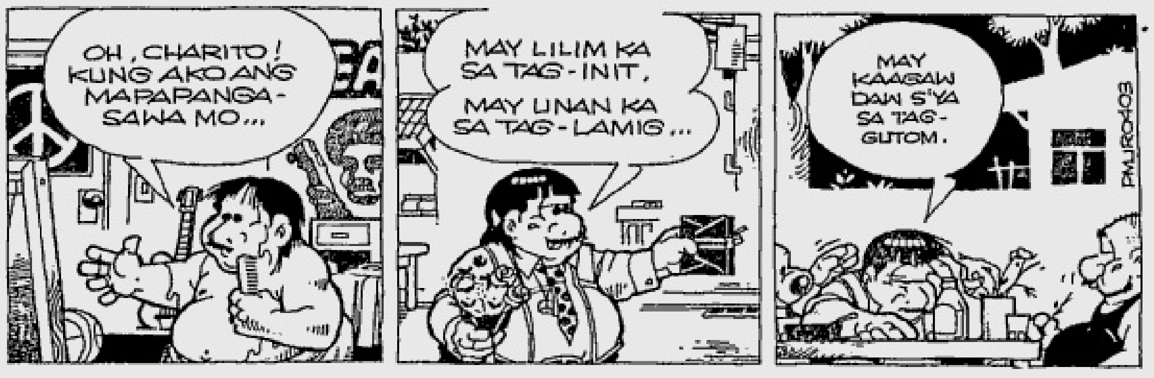
4/23/03

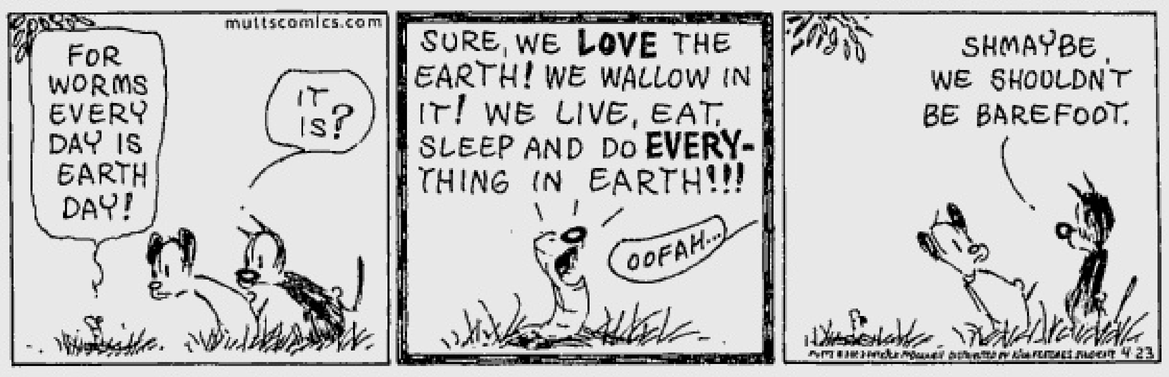
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


HO HO HO!
LUSOT NA AKO
NGI! BAKIT AKO HINAHABOL NG MGA BATA???
CANDIES!
TOYS!
GIFTS!

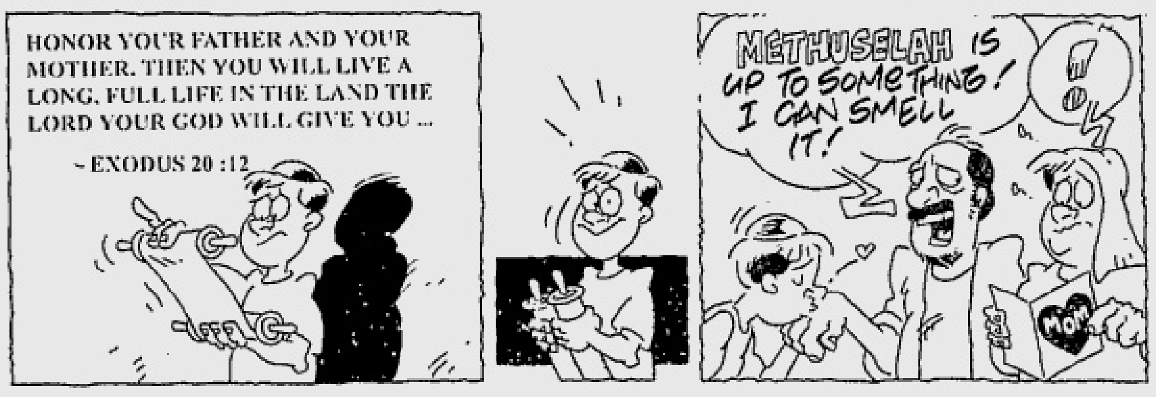
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


OH, CHARITO! KUNG AKO ANG MAPAPANGA-SAWA MO...
MAY LILIM KA SA TAG-INIT,
MAY UNAN KA SA TAG-LAMIG...
MAY KAAGAW DAW S'YA SA TAG-GUTOM.
PMJR0403

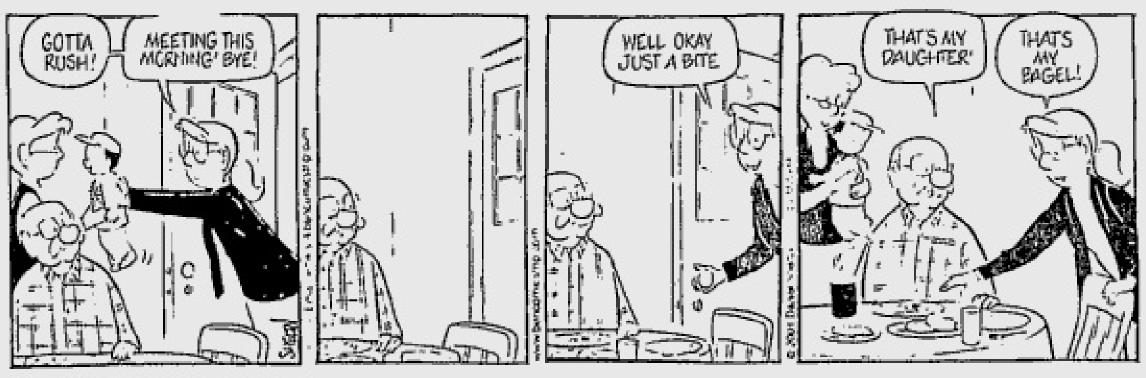
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


muttscomics.com
FOR WORMS EVERY DAY IS EARTH DAY!
IT IS?
SURE, WE LOVE THE EARTH! WE WALLOW IN IT! WE LIVE, EAT, SLEEP AND DO EVERYTHING IN EARTH!!!
OOFAH...
SHMAYBE, WE SHOULDN'T BE BAREFOOT.
4-23

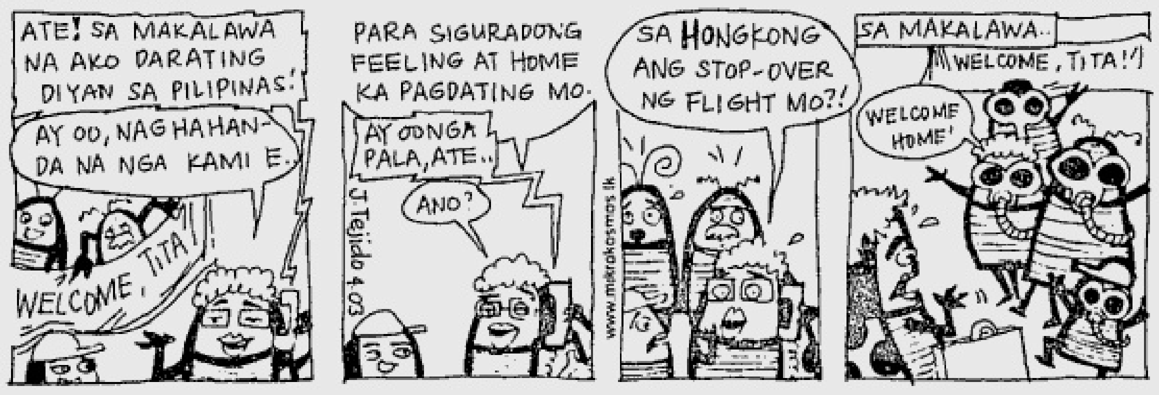
DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS


HONOR YOUR FATHER AND YOUR MOTHER. THEN YOU WILL LIVE A LONG, FULL LIFE IN THE LAND THE LORD YOUR GOD WILL GIVE YOU ...
~ EXODUS 20 :12
METHUSELAH IS UP TO SOMETHING! I CAN SMELL IT!
MOM

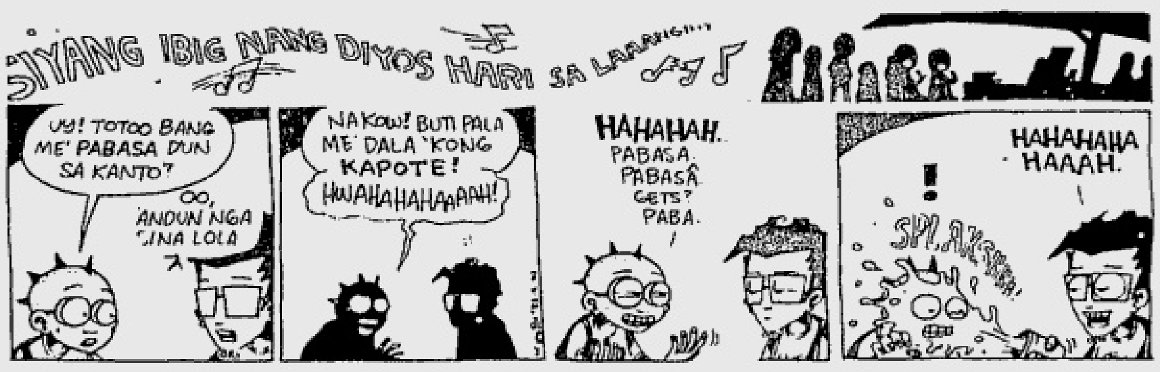
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


GOTTA RUSH!
MEETING THIS MORNING! BYE!
WELL OKAY JUST A BITE.
THAT'S MY DAUGHTER!
THAT'S MY BAGEL!

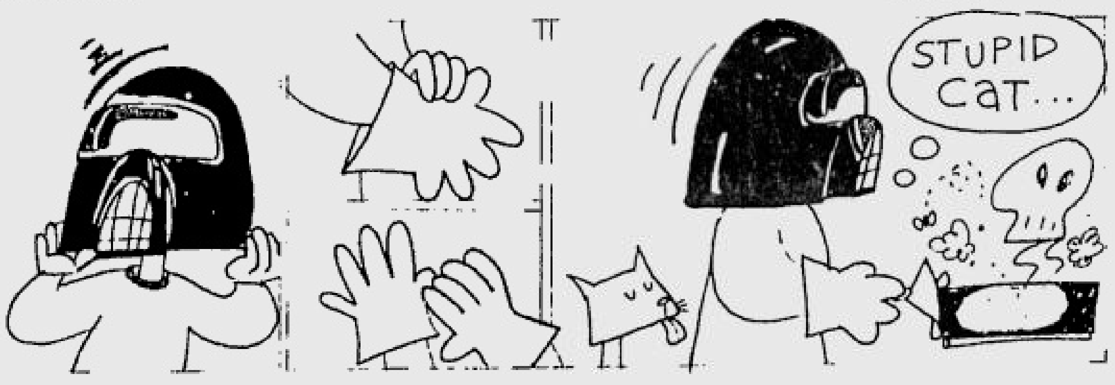
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


ATE! SA MAKALAWA NA AKO DARATING DIYAN SA PILIPINAS!
AY OO, NAGHAHANDA NA NGA KAMI E.
WELCOME, TITA!
PARA SIGURADONG FEELING AT HOME KA PAGDATING MO.
AY OONGA PALA, ATE..
ANO?
J. Tejido 4.03
www.mikrokosmos.tk
SA HONGKONG ANG STOP-OVER NG FLIGHT MO?!
SA MAKALAWA..
WELCOME, TITA!
WELCOME HOME!

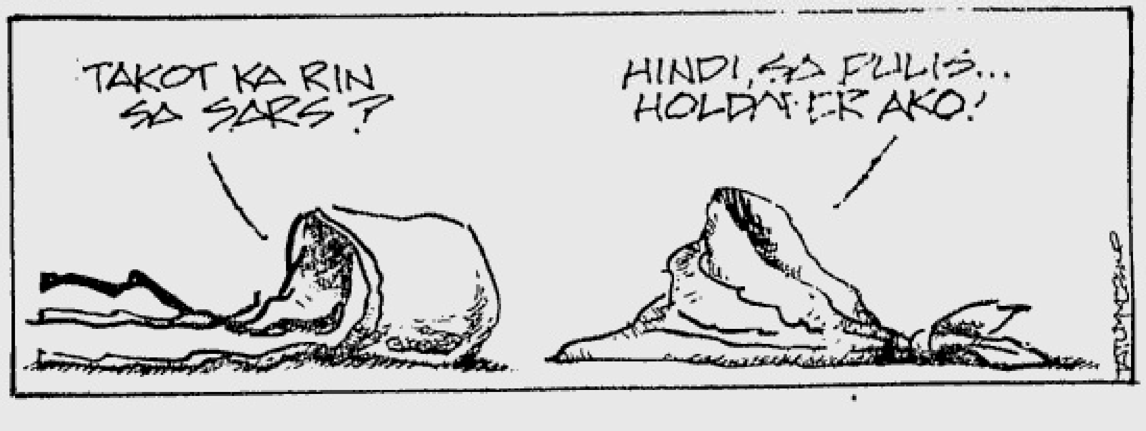
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


SIYANG IBIG NANG DIYOS HARI SA LAANG...
UY! TOTOO BANG ME' PABASA DUN SA KANTO?
OO, ANDUN NGA SINA LOLA
NAKOW! BUTI PALA ME' DALA 'KONG KAPOTE! HWAHAHAHAAAH!
HAHAHAH. PABASA. PABASA GETS? PABA.
HAHAHAHA HAAAH.
SPLAKSH!

FURRY LOGIC BY SUSIE AND CALVIN



TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


TAKOT KA RIN SA SARS?
HINDI, SA PULIS... HOLDAPER AKO!

Gloria Arroyo and the Queen of Millennium Prophets

From page F1

Not even a Jeanne Dixon can foretell the wild predictions of Quiapo's self-proclaimed Nostradamuses—much less the fees they will charge

Until I see the name "Gloria Arroyo." "Why is Gloria Arroyo here in your board?" I cautiously ask her.

"Because she is the false president," she replies. "I am the true president according to the Millennium prophet, for I am the queen of the millennium prophets. Gloria is just the officer in charge, I am the real one."

I suppress a laugh and urge her to go on. "Erap is my uncle," she continues. "You see, my mom is his sister."

I forget to ask her why she is in Quiapo and not in Malacañang, where a president should rightfully hold office.

In the middle of the card shuffling, I am distracted by another sight—of an innocent-looking young girl listening intently to Madam Miss Fortune Number 2. "*Iha, mayaman ang mapapangasawa mo...*" And her face brightens up.

A kid selling scapulars approaches me and begs me to buy the religious items for P10 a pop. He disappears after some territorial bully boy kicks him in the butt and challenges him to a fight.

Behind them, a middle-aged woman hits an old man with an empty plastic bottle. "*Itay, ano ba, ang kulit nyo—sabi nga 'wag kayong pakalat-kalat eh!*"

Tarot and feng shui

Sensing my short attention span, Miss Fortune Teller One, the Queen of the Prophets, makes her voice louder. "You have to buy pung-suy (I think she meant feng shui) from us—you can put it anywhere—your house, your room, your office..."

Uh, I think I have bought enough of those from (the late) Paul Lau—I don't need more.

She then proceeds to read her cards, literally. Every tarot would have a note, with handwritten English inscriptions "love, good health, happiness" and other feel-good words meant for the lost and the lovelorn.

"Three women are in love with you," she tells me. "You'll have five kids." She flips the cards as she squeezes my palms, as if she were a shiatsu masseuse on a bad day.

She then takes out yet another photocopied paper and checks my horoscope, reads it aloud like an honor student in a final oral test.

"You are Capricorn, right? You are capricious, hard-working, intelligent, blah blah blah blah."

I get tired of the big words, so politely, I say, "Okay, no more questions."

"Okay, P300." She stares at me bluntly.

"Huh? Why the price increase?" I feel like a foreigner who just got duped by the friendly neighborhood prostitute.

"Because your photographer took my picture!" She proudly snaps back, giving Norma Desmond a run for her fortune money.

Relieved about the end of the inflated session, I head toward the church and make the sign of the cross as I observe life in Quiapo pass by, where the certainty ratio is as *hula* as *hula* gets.

TRUE OR FALSE PROPHETS? The author amidst the frenzy of fate and faith in the streets of Quiapo

Tabu bikini show tonight

ESTABLISHED by Isabel Engwa and Amanda Griffin, Tabu Swimwear presents a fashion show called Moroccan Dusk at Dish in Rockwell's Power Plant Mall tonight.

The show will have Nancy Castiglione, Tanya Paulsen, Phoemela Baranda, Nicolette Belle, Kyla Fernandez and others modeling the swimwear.

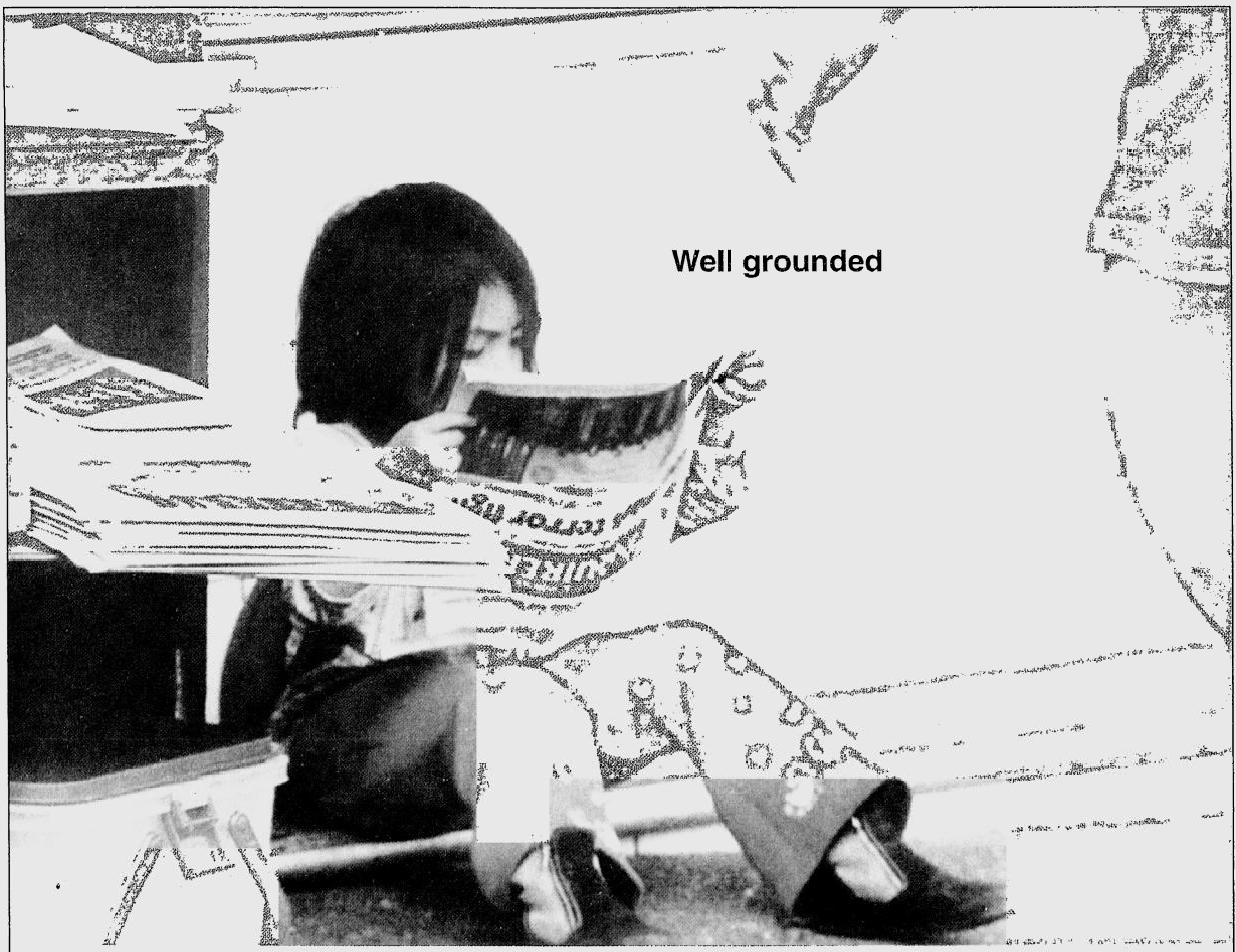
Marc Nelson and Marco Lobregat will be bartending after the fashion show.

Tickets are priced at P350 for men while women get in free. Tickets are available at Dish. Call 898-1771/1824. Doors open at 9 p.m.

Anderson book launch

ANVIL Publishing and Ateneo de Manila University-School of Social Science announce the launching of the Philippine edition of "Imagined Communities" by scholar Benedict Anderson on April 24, 6 p.m., at the new PLDT School of Management Building, Ateneo de Manila University . "Imagined Communities" examines the creation and global spread of nationality.

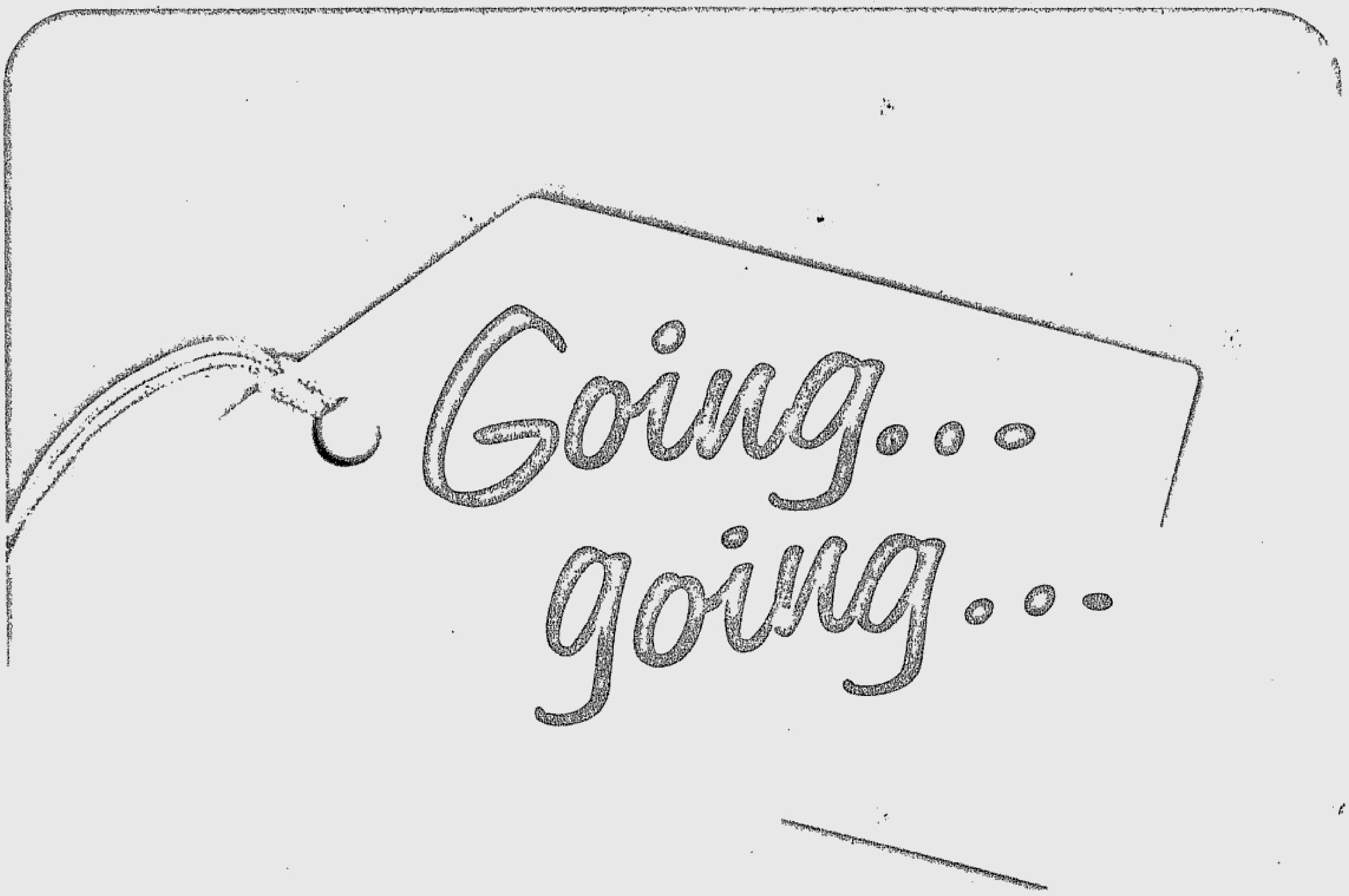
Professors of History, Sociology and Anthropology are all invited. Invited speakers are UP President Francisco Nemenzo, Jr., Presidential Chief-of-Staff Rigoberto Tiglao, professors Patricio Abinales and Joel Rocamora. Interested parties may contact the Anvil Marketing department at 671-9235, 671-1899.



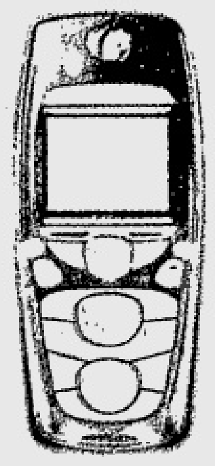
Well grounded

For the past 9 years, the Philippine Daily Inquirer has topped the Asia Research Organization Readership Survey as the No.1 broadsheet in the country. This year, we've done it again, thanks to the faith of our readers, advertisers, dealers, and partners who remain confident in our commitment to public service. We're glad that whatever your reading style, you have made us a part of your life.

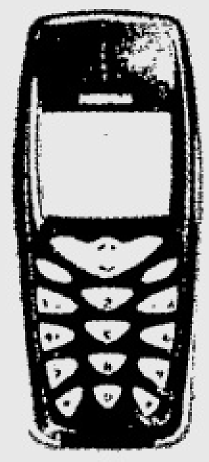
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
News that makes a difference


Going...
going...

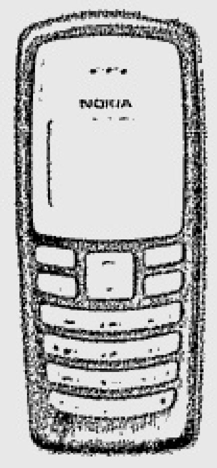
Hurry.



NOKIA 3530
₱ 7,990



NOKIA 3510
₱5,590



NOKIA 2100
₱6,290

MOTOROLA T190
₱2,990

These hot, hot prepaid phone kits from Sun Cellular are going fast. Enjoy unbelievable prices for these prepaid kits. All phones come with a Prepaid Navigator Simpack, pre-loaded with ₱100 worth of credit. Plus, you also get a ONE-YEAR phone warranty. If you prefer a plan, subscribe until May 15, 2003 to enjoy ₱2/min SUN to SUN calls and ₱0.50 SUN to SUN texts. These pioneer rates apply until September 30, 2003.

POSTPAID HANDSET RATES

HANDSETS	NEW SUBSCRIPTION				SWITCHING			
	Plan 250	Plan 1000	Plan 2000	Plan 3500	Plan 250	Plan 1000	Plan 2000	Plan 3500
Panasonic GD88	23,000	19,000	7,500	FREE	20,750	16,500	FREE	FREE
Nokia 7250	21,000	13,000	5,000	FREE	18,750	9,000	FREE	FREE
Sony Ericsson P800	32,750	25,000	18,000	FREE	30,500	21,000	12,000	FREE
Nokia 8910i	31,500	22,000	15,000	FREE	29,000	18,000	9,000	FREE
Nokia 3530	3,500	FREE	FREE	FREE	3,500	FREE	FREE	FREE
Panasonic GD55	4,500	2,250	FREE	FREE	2,750	FREE	FREE	FREE
Nokia 3650	18,850	4,000	FREE	FREE	17,500	FREE	FREE	FREE
Siemens S57	17,250	14,500	7,500	FREE	14,500	11,000	FREE	FREE
Nokia 6610	16,000	3,000	FREE	FREE	15,000	FREE	FREE	FREE
Nokia 2100	1,750	FREE	FREE	FREE	500	FREE	FREE	FREE
Motorola T190	1,250	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE
Sony Ericsson T100	2,000	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE
Sony Ericsson T200	5,000	2,750	750	FREE	2,750	1,750	FREE	FREE
Nokia 3510	2,750	FREE	FREE	FREE	2,750	FREE	FREE	FREE

Prices reflect 24-month holding period, 12-month pricing available upon inquiry. Handset prices for Plan 250 include Registration Fee of ₱1,250.

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